

**WISCONSIN**  
**STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY BUILDING**  
**MEMORIAL VOLUME**

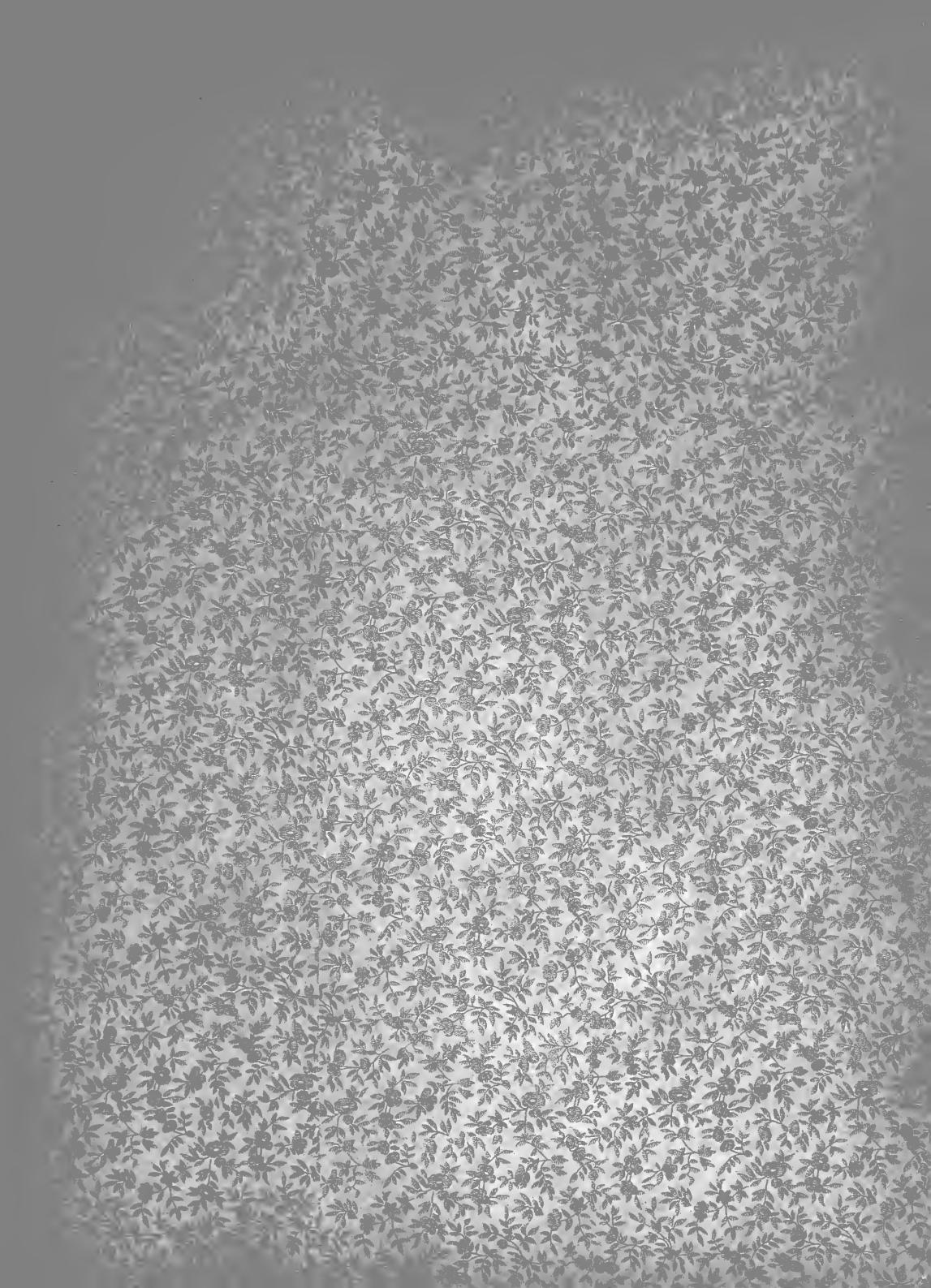
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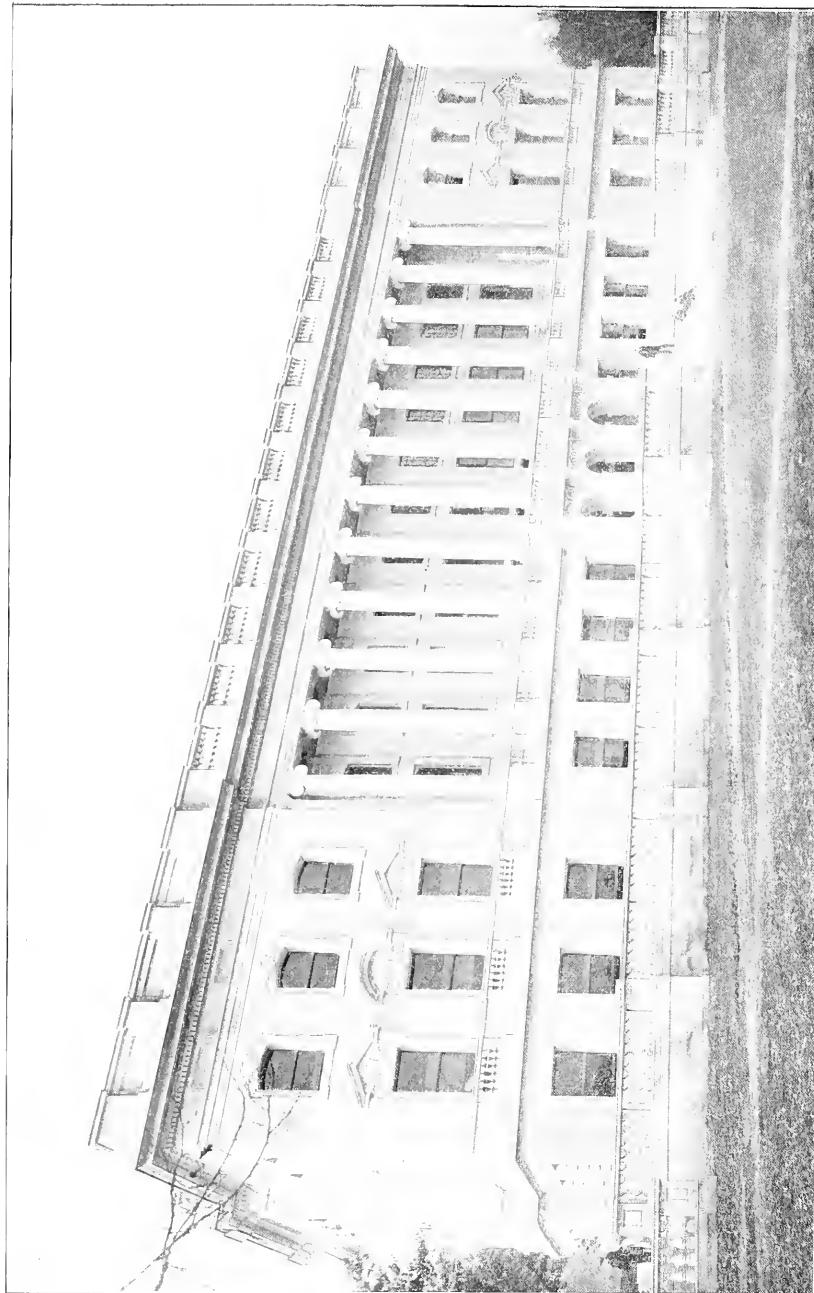




WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY BUILDING  
MEMORIAL VOLUME







THE EASTERN FAÇADE  
From the Lower Campus of the State University.

THE  
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN

Exercises at the Dedication of its New Building, October 19, 1900; together with  
a Description of the Building, Accounts of the Several Libraries  
contained therein, and a Brief History of the Society

EDITED BY  
REUBEN GOLD THWAITES  
*Secretary and Superintendent of the Society*

Memorial Volume

1901

MADISON  
DEMOCRAT PRINTING COMPANY, STATE PRINTER  
1901

FEB 1 1902  
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## BOARD OF BUILDING COMMISSIONERS

(Acting under the Laws of Wisconsin—for 1895, Chap. 298; for 1897, Chaps. 237, 293; for 1899, Chap. 296)

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### COMMISSIONERS

(In order of appointment)

*Representing State Historical Society—*

LUCIUS FAIRCHILD, Madison (Died May 23, 1896)  
REUBEN G. THWAITES, Madison  
GEORGE B. BURROWS, Madison  
WILLIAM F. VILAS, Madison (succeeded Commissioner Fairchild)

*Representing State University Regents—*

CHARLES K. ADAMS, Madison  
GEORGE H. NOYES, Milwaukee  
FRANK CHALLONER, Oshkosh (Died January 11, 1899)  
ORLANDO E. CLARK, Appleton (succeeded Commissioner Challoner; term as Regent expired 1901)  
JAMES C. KERWIN, Neenah (succeeded Commissioner Clark)

*Appointed by Governor Upjohn—*

JAMES H. STOUT, Menomonie  
FRANK L. FRASER, Lake Beulah  
LUCIEN S. HANKS, Madison

### OFFICERS OF THE BOARD

*President*—Commissioner Stout

*Vice-President*—Commissioner Hanks

*Executive Committee*—Commissioners Stout, Hanks, Thwaites, Adams, Fraser, and (in 1901, succeeding Adams) Burrows

*Finance Committee*—Commissioners Hanks, Vilas, Adams, and (in 1901, succeeding Adams) Burrows

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*Secretary*—Isaac S. Bradley, Madison

*Architects*—George B. Ferry and Alfred C. Clas, Milwaukee

*Designer of Electrical Equipment*—Francis W. Grant, New York

*Superintendent of Construction*—T. C. McCarthy, July 10, 1896 to February 11, 1897; Francis W. Grant, September 13, 1897 to September 20, 1900

*Inspector of Steel*—Pittsburg Testing Laboratory (limited), Pittsburg

*Consulting Engineers* (University of Wisconsin)—Prof. Storm Bull, heating apparatus; Prof. Dugald C. Jackson, electrical equipment; Dean J. B. Johnson, steel framing

## CONTRACTORS UPON THE BUILDING

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PRELIMINARY MASONRY (south half of basement and first floor), 1896-97—Thomas R. Bentley, Milwaukee

GENERAL CONTRACTOR (completion of building), 1897-1900—Harry Johnson, Omaha

*Subcontractors:*

Bedford Stone—Consolidated Stone Company, Chicago  
Brick—David Stephens, Madison  
Structural steel—Carnegie Steel Company, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Fire-proof floors—Empire Fire-proofing Company, Chicago  
Metal work—Roberts Architectural & Ornamental Iron Company, St. Paul, Minn.  
Metal work—King & Walker, Madison  
Galvanized iron work—Hoffman & Bauer, Milwaukee  
Metal lath—Youngstown Steel Roofing Supply Company, Youngstown, Ohio  
Lumber—Chicago Lumber Company, Omaha  
Adamant plaster—Adamant Manufacturing Company, Milwaukee  
Ornamental plaster—Hohenstein & Jamieson, Chicago  
Sheet metal and sky lights—Stephenson & Studemann, Madison  
Mill work—Interior Woodwork Company, Milwaukee  
Mill work—Starek Manufacturing Company, Madison  
Marble work—Grant Marble Company, Milwaukee  
Mosaic floors—Venetian Mosaic Company, Detroit  
Hardware—Phillip Gross Hardware Company, Milwaukee  
Plate and leaded glass—Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company, Chicago  
Painting and glazing—Pollard & Taber, Madison  
Plumbing—W. H. Halsey, Milwaukee  
Plumbing fixtures—Rundle-Spence Manufacturing Company, Milwaukee  
Boiler—Charles B. Kruse Heating Company, Milwaukee  
Heating apparatus—The Mueller Company, Milwaukee  
Heat regulation—Johnson Electric Service Company, Milwaukee  
Electric work—Julius Andrae & Sons Company, Milwaukee

RETAINING WALL—T. C. McCarthy, Madison

STONE CARVING—Joseph Dux, Chicago .

STEEL BOOK-SHELVING—Art Metal Construction Company, Jamestown, N. Y.

GENERAL FURNITURE (cases, tables, special equipment)—Matthews Bros. Manufacturing Co., Milwaukee

*Subcontractor:*

Catalogue cases and trucks—Library Bureau, Chicago

CHAIRS—A. H. Andrews Company, Chicago

*Subcontractor:*

J. S. Ford, Johnson & Company, Chicago

CORK CARPETS, RUGS, AND SHADES—Gimbels Brothers, Milwaukee

ELEVATORS AND ELEVATOR GRILLES—Otis Elevator Company, Chicago

ELECTRIC FIXTURES—George H. Wheelock & Company, South Bend, Ind.

*Subcontractor:*

The Oxley Enos Company, New York City

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ELECTRIC LAMPS—Shelby Electric Company, Shelby, Ohio

ELECTRIC METERS—General Electric Company, Schenectady, N. Y.

RADIATOR SHIELDS—Monash-Younker Company, Chicago

STEAM-PIPE COVERING—Manville Covering Company, Milwaukee

HOUSE TELEPHONES—Strowger Automatic Telephone Exchange, Chicago

CLOCKS—William J. Gamm, Madison

*Subcontractor:*

Automatic Electric Clock Company, Chicago

SIGNS—Breitwisch & Wanderlich, Milwaukee

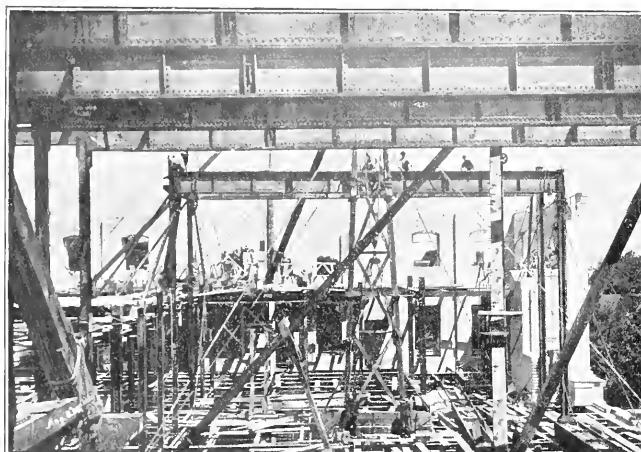
WINDOW- AND DOOR-SCREENS—Willer Manufacturing Company, Milwaukee

AWNINGS—Gallagher Tent and Awning Company, Madison

GRANOLITHIC WALKS, GRADING, SODDING, AND DRIVEWAY—J. W. Mitchell, Madison

*Subcontractor:*

Grading and sodding—James S. Grady, Madison



THE SKELETON OF THE BUILDING

Hoisting a ten-ton steel beam into place, by electric crane. From photograph taken in 1898.

## THE DEDICATION CEREMONIES



## HYMN

FOR THE OPENING OF THE WISCONSIN STATE  
HISTORICAL LIBRARY BUILDING

1

Glory to Thee, O God, and praise,  
For all Thy servants here have wrought;  
The fairest building man can raise  
Is but the symbol of Thy thought.

2

We do not come as those who pray  
To Presence long unseen, unknown;  
This place hath found Thee day by day,  
We reap this hour what Thou hast sown.

3

Thy light is here! Lord God, we ask,  
The toiler's right its gift to share;  
Seemre to our appointed task,  
Some witness of the Builders' care.

4

So shall this sacred temple stand  
The treasure of a noble State;  
And all the good Thy wisdom planned,  
Man's labor into Life translate.

— MARY M. ADAMS.

Madison, Wis., October, 1900.



## EXERCISES AT THE DEDICATION

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AT TWO o'clock in the afternoon of Friday, October nineteenth, 1900, an audience of nine hundred persons, comprising members of the Society, state officers, and members of the legislature, members of the instructional force of the State University and other educational institutions in Wisconsin, together with invited guests from outside the state, gathered in the general reading room of the new library and museum building of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, to fittingly dedicate the structure to public use.

The Hon. John Johnston, of Milwaukee, president of the Society, occupied the chair.



GENERAL READING ROOM

Where the dedicatory exercises were held. The stage was upon the left-hand side, in front of doors opening into the east loggia.

#### *WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY BUILDING*

After an invocation by Prof. James Davie Butler, LL. D., of Madison, one of the oldest members of the Society, the president delivered an address. Succeeding this, were brief addresses as follows:

A Word from the Builders—The Hon. James H. Stont, President of the Board of Building Commissioners.

The State and the Society—The Hon. Edward Scofield, Governor of Wisconsin.

The University and the Society—Charles Kendall Adams, LL. D., President of the University of Wisconsin.

The Society—Reuben Gold Thwaites, Secretary and Superintendent.

Greetings from Sister Historical Societies—The Hon. Charles Francis Adams, LL. D., President of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

Greetings from Sister Libraries—Prof. James Kendall Hosmer, LL. D., Librarian of the Minneapolis Public Library.

On the Teaching of History—Prof. Andrew Cunningham McLaughlin, of the University of Michigan, Chairman of the American Historical Association's Committee of Seven on the Teaching of History in Secondary Schools.

Between the addresses by Senator Stout and Governor Scofield, a double quartette of State University students (Messrs. A. C. Ehman, J. W. McGillis, Philip Spooner, H. S. Peterson, P. A. Kolb, E. R. Williams, C. C. Ireland, and L. P. Rosenheimer), under the charge of Prof. F. A. Parker, director of the University School of Music, sang the Dedication Hymn, written by Mrs. Charles Kendall Adams, which had been set to music by Professor Parker. They also sang a selection between the addresses by the Hon. Charles Francis Adams and Professor Hosmer.

At eight o'clock in the evening, a similar audience, with President Johnston in the chair, was assembled in the same room, and listened to an address entitled "The Sifted Grain and the Grain Sifters," by the Hon. Charles Francis Adams, of Massachusetts.

This was followed by an informal reception by the Society, in the course of which the visitors inspected the building in detail.

All of the addresses delivered at the dedicatory exercises, together with the dedication hymn, are herewith given in full.

## THE INVOCATION

BY JAMES DAVIE BUTLER, LL. D.

**I**T IS believed that I am in years the oldest man in the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, which now here celebrates the most epoch-making event in its career. It is certain that few survive whose memories, like mine, run back to its books "thinly scattered to make up a show," yet filling no more shelves than my own scanty stock. Still fewer perhaps have been in more continuous connection with the institution than I, as member, officer, or at least reader, for over forty-two years.

It has therefore been requested that I begin the present function with some introductory words. One single feeling, however, is paramount in me wherever I turn my eyes from this central platform, or wander among the bookstacks from basement to sky-lights. That dominant feeling among the mysteries of Providence is, a blending of amazement and gratitude which impels me to exclaim, "What hath God wrought!" In this our crowning mercy of the century, I behold the arm of the Lord revealed, and his finger writing above our portals what I saw far up the Nile over the entrance of the most ancient library known in the world, the inscription, *Health-house of the soul, φρόντις τετρατον*.

My feeling, "What hath God wrought!" bids me speak to God first and foremost. Let us, therefore, bow before him who only is great.

*Dedicatory Prayer.*

Almighty God! Our hearts overflow with joy, as we now come before thy presence. The memories of us members of the Historical Society, are of its cradle coeval with the early years of our commonwealth, of its first bibliothecal gatherings vouchsafed a corner in the old capitol, and when that place became too narrow, welcomed in a hospitable church. It gladdens us that our historic jewels were at once honored with befitting caskets in the new capitol; and when they had grown too large for that setting, that capitol-extension was largely brought about in order to enshrine them. Our most precious memory is, that the Society



PROF. JAMES DAVIE BUTLER, LL. D.  
One of the oldest members of the Society, now  
in his eighty-sixth year. From photograph  
taken on his eightieth birthday.

WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY BUILDING

was winning such a home in the hearts of the people at large, as foreshadowed the consummation and culmination we now witness.

That man has here done his utmost to safeguard our treasures from fire and other fury of elements, as well as to furnish effectual helps for their doing the greatest good to the greatest number who labor to become heirs of all ages, how can we be fitly thankful? That our accumulations and those of the University here combine under one roof, and, clasping loving hands together, lend and borrow light, each exalting each, is the crown of our joy. That ours is such a felicity of position, that our feast of reason is spread as daily food "without money and without price" before the sons and daughters of our people who chiefly congregate here for the bettering of their minds,—that such a price to get wisdom is here put into receptive hands,—O God! how can we fitly thank thee?

To thee, O God, we dedicate this library, as a Christian and a christianizing establishment, a hall of harmonious research where the brotherhood of man shall be promoted—all mingling on one level, no matter how divided by creed or party or class; all walls of partition broken down.

Thankful for the past, our prayer is for the future. Grant still to the Society that home in the hearts of the people which is mother of its prosperity. Let it be felt that no city is too great and no hamlet too small to be uplifted by its influence. Out of the abundance of their hearts, the people of Wisconsin have made the Society trustees of a vast educative bounty. Let the state sustain this palace of light which it has built, so that the munificence of the people shall do its perfect work. Let this magnet attract from far and near, those who can most profit by its treasures of science and delights of learning.

We delight to honor the Society's founders who have walked the way of nature. Our own days are a shadow, and there is none abiding. Officers, members, readers, all die. All the more because "we all do fade as a leaf," let us exult in the Society which, through thy blessing, shall not die—shall know no age, but from generation to generation shall hand down legacies more and more priceless, each a new proof that while the forms of matter are fleeting, the forms of mind are eternal.

Our prayer and hope are, that even when these massive walls, these rocks of ages, must crumble, the Society, through still diffusing the learning of the world and the literature of power, shall be fulfilling thine own first mandate: Let there be light! glory thus redounding unto thee, "the Father of lights," and unto thy Son "whose life was the light of men,"—who was born and came into the world to this end, that "the people which had sat in darkness might see great light." *Amen!*

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

BY JOHN JOHNSTON,

**T**HIS is a day of which our beloved state may well feel proud. There have been many great days in her short history, but none of them have been greater than this. There are men in this audience who were present at Wisconsin's birth; they tell us that her "baby bed was prowled round by the Indian's crackling tread;" that where her two millions of happy, intelligent, and prosperous people now live there was, within their recollection, an unexplored wilderness of prairie and forest; where every hour there now thunder across our state, great trains laden with merchandise and men, there was no path but the track of the wild beast or the trail of the almost equally wild red-man; and where now are great cities with spacious harbors, large factories, and a far-reaching commerce, Lake Michigan rolled in upon a desert shore. This is a wonderful transformation to occur in a single lifetime; but we have to-day, higher reasons for congratulation than mere increase in population and material wealth.

While we have been busy plowing the prairies, cutting down the forests, opening mines and building cities, the proceedings of this day emphasize in a remarkable way the fact that we have not forgotten those higher and nobler achievements pertaining to a people truly great.

It would not have been considered strange had this magnificent building been erected by one of the old common-



JOHN JOHNSTON  
President of the Wisconsin State Historical Society.  
(9)

*WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY BUILDING*

wealths of the East; but that our young state should have done so is, I think, as remarkable as it is praiseworthy.

The name "Wisconsin" is said to mean "the gathering of the waters." When applied to our state it may well mean "the gathering of the peoples;" for within our borders, men and women from every state in the Union, and from almost every country in Europe, have found a home. Notwithstanding this influx of hundreds of thousands of strangers, the standard of law, order, morality, and education has been kept exceedingly high.

There is nothing strange in the fact that Dr. Lyman C. Draper, the father of our State Historical Society, should have begun fifty years ago to collect materials which have now become so vast and valuable; and while it was exceedingly fortunate, it can hardly be said to be remarkable that his mantle should have fallen on a successor every way worthy of him, in the person of Reuben Gold Thwaites, the present able secretary and enthusiastic superintendent of our Society, to whose efforts, more perhaps than those of any other living man, we are indebted for its prosperous condition to-day. I do, however, think it remarkable that the people of Wisconsin, as represented in their legislature, should in this so-called mercenary age have been animated by so high an ideal of duty as to vote \$620,000 to erect the most costly and most splendidly equipped historical library building upon the American continent.

At the annual meeting of our Society held on December 13, 1895, its president said, "that the event of all events in that year was the action of the legislature creating a commission and appropriating money to erect a building somewhat commensurate with the importance of our Society and the wealth and intelligence of our great state. For this we have worked, watched, and waited for years, and let all honor, we say, be accorded to those state officers and members of the legislature who rose to the high occasion. On account of this, generations hence, when every other act of theirs is forgotten, men shall call them blessed."

Five years have passed, and we have now met to dedicate this temple of history to the noble uses for which it was erected. It will stand for centuries to come in all its strength, simplicity, magnificence, and beauty, a grand monument to the men who lived in Wisconsin at the close of the nineteenth century. The great liberality of our state, illustrated in this building as well as in its generous support of all the educational and charitable institutions within our borders, proclaims in no uncertain language the belief of the people of our state that we have a great future before us; and we mean to show that we are worthy of that future by preparing for it.

If we cast our eyes back for three thousand years, we see the highest civilization in the valley of the Nile, and again on the Tigris and the Euphrates; by and by the mistress of the world established her seat on the banks of the Tiber, and then on the banks of the Thames. Can we for a moment doubt that here, in the valley of the Mississippi, a civilization shall arise far surpassing in material, moral, and mental grandeur the civilization of the Nile, the Tigris, the Tiber, or the Thames? Wisconsin, full of the highest hopes for the future, is doing what she can to usher it in.

A library is composed of the best thoughts of the best thinkers of all time. One cannot choose his companions from the great ones of earth; but within these walls he can hold intercourse with the greatest intellects in the world's history — the master spirits of the race.

The problems of real life, in dealing with our fellow men, and the great social and political questions which are from every side crowding in upon us for solution, will have more light cast upon them from the study of history than from any other source. In history is recorded the ascent of the moral, religious, and intellectual life of the human family. His-

#### DEDICATION CEREMONIES

tory has been called "the letter of instructions which the old generations write and transmit to the new."

The treasures of historic lore which are stored upon these shelves are open to all. It requires no golden key to reach them. The fountains of knowledge are as free as they are inexhaustible. I think I can hear our enthusiastic secretary, like the Hebrew prophet of old, calling, "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money come!"

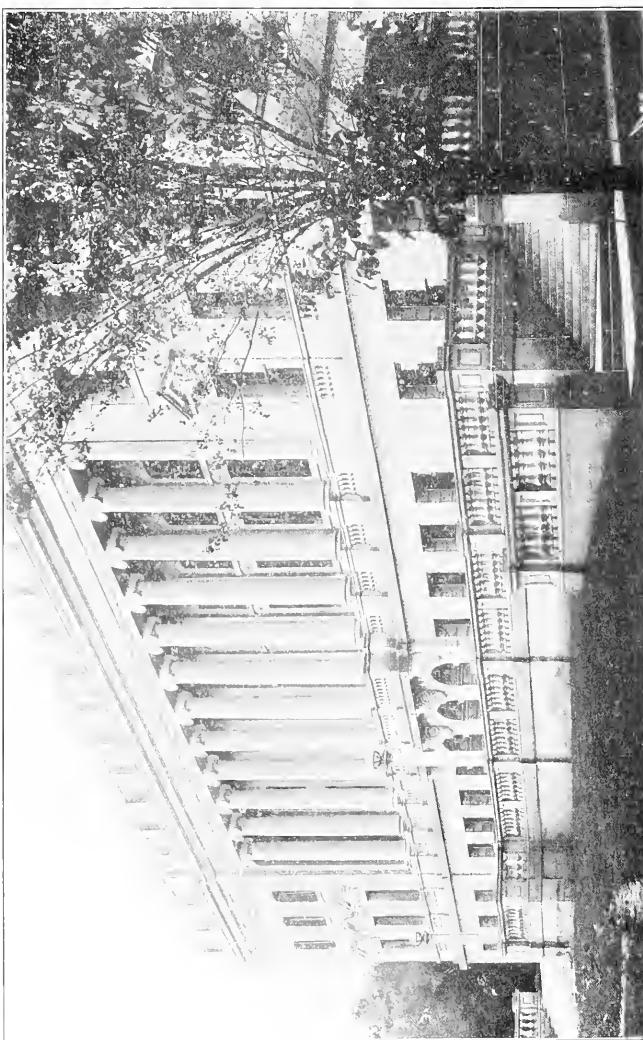
I have sometimes thought it strange that Wisconsin has taken such an interest in history, seeing it has so brief a history of its own. No buried cities, no ruined arches, no crumbling palaces, no grim castles famed in song and story, no gloomy cathedrals, no historic battlefields are to be found within the confines of our young Wisconsin. I cease not to give thanks that such is the case. It is a grand thought that we begin our history untrammeled by traditions, and unfettered by privilege and prerogative. Instead of the grim spectres of the departed past, we see fair cities rising on the shores of beautiful lakes, with schools, colleges, libraries, churches, and all those benevolent and charitable institutions which are the glory of our modern civilization.

If men come not from afar to visit our relics of the past, they are coming in greater and greater numbers to consult the records of the past which we have garnered. I do not think it a thing impossible that before many generations come and go, the students of Europe will not consider that their education is complete until they have studied at the University of Wisconsin! Our state is larger than all England, but has only 2,000,000 of people; can any one predict the standing of our University when it has the support of ten, perhaps even twenty, millions of people?

We are on the threshold of a new century, a fact which should give an impetus to the study of history. Not one of us will reach another of these mile-stones of Time, and it behoves us to look both back upon the past and forward to the future.

He must be blind, indeed, who cannot see that at present the mightiest agencies are uniting the nations of the earth. Every ocean is covered with ships, the mountains are being tunneled, the rivers bridged, great canals are being made between the oceans, electric wires are being laid in the dark depths of the sea, while wonderful expositions of the industries of every nation are being held under one roof, and the prejudices of race and tongue are rapidly melting away. The horrid thunders of war have not ceased to roll, but they are merely preparing the way to usher in the grand diapason of universal peace.

Ladies and gentlemen, I feel that I must not occupy any more of your time, for we have with us many distinguished men from both our own and other states, who have kindly come to assist us in making the exercises of this hour worthy of the great occasion we have met to celebrate, and to rejoice with us that one more mighty power has been established in Wisconsin to dissipate the darkness of ignorance and "weaken the sceptre of Old Night," a power which will make for righteousness, intelligence, and truth, through many generations to come.



THE EAST FRONT  
From northeast corner of terrace, on Langdon street.

## A WORD FROM THE BUILDERS

BY JAMES H. STOUT.

**I** TRUST, as president of the Board of Commissioners for erecting the State Historical Library Building, that a few figures, briefly stated, giving the cost of this building and comparing it with the cost of some other library and office buildings recently constructed, may be of interest at this time.

For construction alone, this building has cost 20 cents per cubic foot; including all the furnishing and equipment, as you see it to-day, it cost but 29 cents per cubic foot.

In the southwest stack wing, there is storage capacity for 250,000 volumes; there is space for 5,000 volumes upon the walls of the reading room; the newspaper stack holds 20,000 bound volumes of files; then, the several offices and departmental and seminary libraries will hold about 138,000 volumes, making a present total storage capacity of 413,000 volumes. When the northwest stack wing is constructed, this total will be increased to 625,000 volumes.

The cost of the Milwaukee Public Library building was about 21 cents per cubic foot, for construction alone. I understand that its capacity is 240,000 volumes, and that it now has about 140,000 volumes in its stack rooms.

The cost of the Chicago Public Library, which is highly decorated, was 43 cents per cubic foot. The Boston Public Library cost 70 cents; but, as most of you know, this building is very handsomely finished and decorated. The cost of the new Columbia University Library, in New York city, was 10 cents per cubic foot; of the State Library at Richmond, Va., a brick structure, 23 cents; of the Auditorium Hotel, in Chicago, 38 cents; of the New York Life Insurance Company building at Kansas City, 38 cents; and of the same company's building at Omaha, 39 cents.

These figures are instructive as well as interesting; they exhibit the fact that this beautiful library building for the State Historical Society of Wisconsin has been constructed, furnished,



JAMES H. STOUT

President of the Board of Building Commissioners.

*WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY BUILDING*

and equipped at a minimum cost to the state — that the people have in every respect received their money's worth. The Building Commissioners have attempted to erect this building with the same care as to expense and quality that they would exercise upon buildings for themselves; it is confidently believed that the trust committed to them has been administered upon a prudent and business-like basis. It is a sufficient reward to them to know that the people of the state, so far as heard from, appear to be satisfied with this building, which is to-day dedicated to the cause of higher education in the state of Wisconsin.



THE BUILDERS AT WORK  
Carvers cutting lions' heads, over east entrance.

## THE STATE AND THE SOCIETY

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BY GOVERNOR EDWARD SCOFIELD.



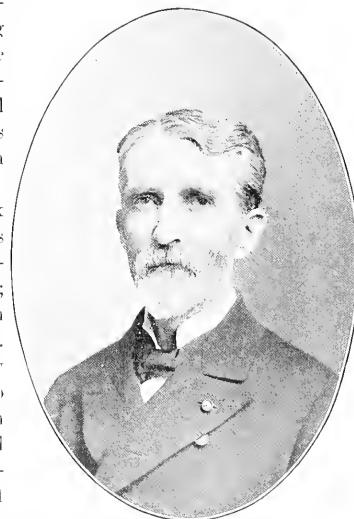
DEEM it an honor to take part in the ceremonies of dedicating this magnificent building; a building which seems to me to be typical of the spirit of the people of the Badger state — the people who have chosen for their motto the word "Forward."

That single inspiring word comprehends all, and we have proof here that the people are living up to it in its fullest significance. It speaks volumes for the state that there should be within its borders a collection of books and documents deserving such a home, and that the people should be willing to erect a building worthy of such a collection. The stranger who visits this library and examines its contents need ask no questions as to the intelligence and enterprise of our citizens; this noble monument and its treasures tell the tale. They are more eloquent than words; they leave nothing to be asked.

The topic upon which I have been asked to speak for a few moments, presents with these associations thoughts too numerous and too expansive to be covered, even in a general way, in the time I am allotted; I shall therefore confine myself to a few remarks upon the attitude of the state toward educational movements.

But before doing this I wish to express publicly my pleasure and pride in this beautiful structure, and to compliment the Building Commission which had it in charge upon the success which it has achieved. I had no conception of the beauty of the building until I recently visited it; and I feel that the state owes a debt of gratitude to the men who, without recompense, gave their time and attention to it in order that we might have here in the capital of the state and at the seat of the State University, a library building worthy of the wealth and intelligence of the citizens of Wisconsin.

Wisconsin has been generous in providing facilities for education. There is scarcely a nook or corner in the whole state where the schoolhouse is not within easy reach of every child who desires an education; and in every city of the state, the public schools are among the largest



EDWARD SCOFIELD  
Governor of Wisconsin.

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and best of its buildings. Not only has the state been liberal with money for school-buildings and equipments, but its laws have been framed with a view to encourage learning. Everywhere, from the little schoolhouse in the woods to the great University on the hill, which crowns our educational system, is the spirit of the people towards learning manifest. And the liberality has not stopped with providing means of educating children and those who desire to pursue the higher courses of learning; but it has been extended to the care of the defective and criminal classes. Every citizen of the state may feel pride in the intelligent and generous manner in which these classes are cared for, as well as in the way in which the state has appropriated money for public education. It is a gratifying fact that the money thus appropriated has been intelligently expended and wisely distributed. I do not mean that there might not be improvement in the method of spending public moneys in Wisconsin, as elsewhere; but, for the most part, money has been appropriated by the state only when it was needed, and this implies intelligent expenditure. The great University, near the grounds of which this library building is erected, is an illustration of what the state is attempting to do in the way of giving an opportunity to her children for a higher education. Vast sums have been expended upon it, and greater sums will be expended in the future to keep it in the foremost rank of universities. The same liberality has been and will be shown toward the common schools. I feel that there might be even more money than there is, expended for the public schools. I am confident that before many years elapse, the appropriations for the public schools of the state will be very largely increased. Our state presents the example of a generous giver, profited by giving. The principle is as true in government as it is in the development of private character, that the one who gives will be the one who gets.

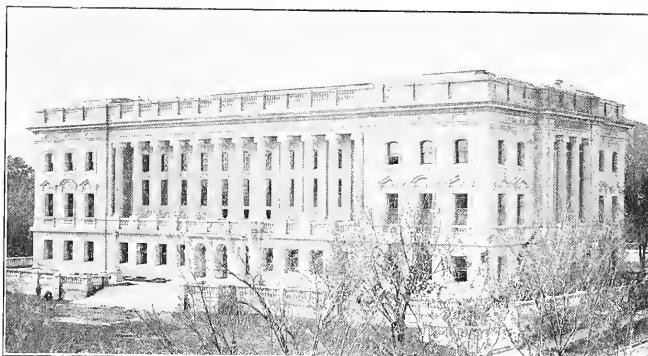
The foolish, unthinking person might contend that the generosity shown by the people toward education and philanthropic work had not made the state more wealthy and prosperous; but the contrary is regarded as so obviously true by all who do think, that it is not worth while discussing. I venture the assertion that every dollar expended in the University has been repaid tenfold to the state, in the development of its resources. If it could be determined, it would be exceedingly interesting to know how much the College of Agriculture, for instance, has increased the agricultural interests of the state; and I have no doubt it would be found that the knowledge imparted by the college had paid the state ten times what the college has cost.

Wisconsin is steadily growing more wealthy, not merely in material things, but in the things that cannot be measured by commercial rules. The general level of prosperity, which includes all, from the man who labors with the shovel or the hoe to the capitalist, has been raised and is steadily rising. When we shall reach the height of material prosperity, no one can predict; but I feel confident, knowing something of the temperament of the people and the development of philanthropic impulses, that even after the state has reached the climax of material prosperity, she will go on increasing her liberality along higher lines. It is in the very nature of advancing civilization, such as we are proud to believe our state exemplifies, that this should be so.

It is pleasing to think that with all these large sums which the state appropriates each year, no tax-payer has been really burdened. We know, of course, without discussing that point, that there are a great many inequalities in our system of taxation; but no man suffers hunger or is deprived of any of the necessities or even luxuries of life through the amount of taxes he has to pay; so that our giving — and this must be a pleasure to us — for these noble purposes, such as the erection of this building, is done without any feeling of pressure.

#### *DEDICATION CEREMONIES*

In closing, let me say again that I feel we owe a debt of gratitude to the commission in whose charge this building has been, for its conscientious and intelligent work. The stately appearance of the exterior of this structure, as well as the artistic beauty of its interior, not to speak of the mass of knowledge represented by its contents, will be an inspiration and guide to better taste and higher impulses for many generations to come. I feel to-day that my predecessor, Governor Upham, under whose administration and upon whose recommendation the first appropriation for this beautiful structure was made, is to be complimented upon the monument he builded for himself. It is a monument to learning which will stand long after those who conceived it have passed away, and of which this and future generations may well be proud.



AS SEEN FROM THE UNIVERSITY GYMNASIUM

## THE UNIVERSITY AND THE SOCIETY

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BY CHARLES KENDALL ADAMS, LL. D.



UNIVERSITY is chiefly an inspiration and an opportunity. The highest work of the great teacher is to kindle a desire and then to point out the way. Learning sometimes seems to shrink up the soul. If at any one spot there are twelve apostles, at least one of them has to look after the purse, and so loses his way. It is only the inspired soul that can throw wide open the doors that lead into the Elysian fields, and say to the student, "This is the way; walk ye in it."

If the teachers are the inspiration, the laboratories and the libraries are the opportunities of knowledge. But all learning tends to take on the historic form. Even the mathematics cannot thrive without Pogendorf's *Annalen*. And so, when the university is reduced to lowest terms, we find that it consists simply of two elements — teachers and books. All things else, however necessary and desirable, are as mere clothes to the real man. Hence it is easy to see why a great library has always been held to be a necessary part of a great university. The great library at Alexandria preceded the other part of the university; and the Germans, after the war of 1870, would hardly think of founding the new University of Strassburg till the other universities of the world had given them 300,000 volumes.

It would be hard to name any place where these two necessary elements of learning have been more fortunately brought together than they have here. Other universities, it is true, in the course of long years and centuries have brought together larger faculties and more numerous bodies of students. Other libraries count greater numbers of volumes. But who can name a spot where in less than fifty years from the time when the frontiersmen were beginning to gather up the unwoven fringe of civilization, the people have brought such a gift as this and placed it, we may almost say, in the lap of the State University?

This was as it should have been; for where else could the streams of knowledge have been so potent for good as when flowing back into the state, through the minds and hearts of the children of the people? Are not the children the dearest possession of the fathers and the mothers, and so the dearest possession of the state? Do not the fathers and mothers willingly and cheerfully do for their children more than they would do for themselves? Is there any thing more striking in society than the universal desire of parents that their offspring should have a better chance than was given to the fathers and mothers? If it be true that all that a man hath will he give for his life, it is none the less true that all that a man hath will he give for his children. This, for obvious reasons, is even more strikingly true on the frontiers than it is in the mature parts of our country. The school houses that dot the valleys and hillsides are a striking and a glorious proof of the determination that whatever else comes, the children are to be provided for.

*DEDICATION CEREMONIES*

It was in this spirit that the representatives of this commonwealth gave the money for this noble structure. It was for their children rather than for themselves; and it may well be doubted whether the legislature could possibly have been persuaded to erect such a structure elsewhere than at the edge of the University, where so many of their sons and daughters come to drink of the sweet waters of learning. Here, it is true, is an historical collection of such importance that, wherever its home, it would draw scholars and investigators to it from all



CHARLES KENDALL ADAMS, LL.D.  
President of the University of Wisconsin.

parts of the country. But it is safe to say that the predominant and deciding motive in providing for so large and commodious a structure was to make a place where the children of the state would, for years and perhaps centuries to come, feed their intellects and their souls with the best that the world of letters has to give.

Nor let us forget the elevating and emboldening influences of such surroundings. Can any student even look down the corridor as he enters the building, without feeling something of that subduing inspiration which is always felt in the presence of the great in art? As for my-

WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY BUILDING

self, when, after an absence of six months, I first entered the completed structure, I could scarcely refrain from exclaiming, as I gazed about me, "Here is something which even the Greeks themselves would have praised!" And as I wandered from room to room, and finally walked around the exterior, I could not help thinking that the building as a whole would not have been out of place on that sacred hill of Minerva at Athens, which was thronged with temples and statues and colonnades, any one of which, it has been said, would have been the artistic glory of any city in the world. And I fancied that in the years to come many a student may here have something of that artistic thrill, at once subduing and all-permeating and uplifting, which so many have felt on first entering King's College chapel at Cambridge, but only Wordsworth's genius could fully express.

" Tax not the royal Saint with vain expense,  
With ill-matched aims the Architect who planned,  
Albeit labouring for a scanty band  
Of white robed Scholars only, this immense  
And glorious work of fine intelligence!  
Give all thou canst: high Heaven rejects the lore  
Of nicely-calculated less or more:  
So deemed the Man who fashioned for the sense  
These lofty pillars, spread that branching roof  
Self-poised, and scooped into ten thousand cells,  
Where light and shade repose, where music dwells  
Lingering, and wandering on as loth to die:  
Like thoughts whose very sweetness yieldeth proof  
That they were born for immortality."

As I turned to take another survey of the whole, even the lions which guard the front portals seemed to say to every goer and comer: "Leave behind you every turbulent passion, for growl and roar as you may, you will be kept in place by this weight of wisdom and this sense of beauty, and will finally be enchain'd and led with garlands of flowers."

In the name of the University, I give thanks for this noble offering on the altar of learning.

In behalf of the regents and all the faculties, I give thanks.

In behalf of the thousands of students, whether now here or yet to come, who are most specially to enjoy the fruits of these labors, I give thanks.

The highest institution of learning in the state, in all its branches, brings its congratulations and its thanks—to the Building Commission, who have so faithfully guarded all the interests of the state; to the architects, who have designed a building so noble in conception, so pure in style, and so beautiful in proportion and detail; to General Fairchild, to Governor Upham, and to Speaker Burrows, who put forth their powerful efforts in the hour of emergency; to the wise legislators, who saw the significance of such a structure in its beneficent influence on the far future; and most of all to the generous people of this great commonwealth, who have shown that they have been alike determined that liberty in the land shall not perish, and that in accordance with the great Ordinance of 1787 learning in Wisconsin shall forever be fostered and encouraged.

## THE SOCIETY

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BY REUBEN GOLD THWAITES.

 **F**THE hundred men who, fifty-one years ago last January, placed their names upon the membership roll of the Wisconsin Historical Society, I believe that not over three or four are now living; and probably none of these are here present. The first generation of the organizers of our guild have practically passed away. We who to-day are dedicating to public use this temple of history in Wisconsin, are of the second generation; that which we are garnering is the fruitage of the inspiration which has come down to us from the pioneers of 1849.

The first four years were practically barren. The Society, reorganized in 1853, then placed its work in the hands of one who thenceforth gave his life to this enterprise. We are but building on the foundations planted deep and wide by Lyman C. Draper. It is therefore meet that in this our hour of rejoicing, we have some thought of the man to whose memory is due so large a share of our thanksgiving.

Those were days of small beginnings. After the enthusiasm of organization had passed away, but a small band remained of those who understood the mission of a State Historical Society, or appreciated what it might become. It was early seen that the institution could not flourish without state aid. Draper was obliged to prove by his works, from year to year, that the Society was worth aiding, as an agency of the higher education, and official recognition came tardily following the steady advancement of the undertaking.

He was by nature diffident, he preferred the cloistered quiet of the scholar; yet the great needs of this Society led him, for a third of a century, to exploit it in the press, to haunt the halls of legislation, to plead for the bounty of the philanthropic. A generation of men in public life knew him for a patient, kindly soul, possessed of one high purpose, to the accomplishment of which he brought unequalled persistence. It was given to few to understand him in-



LYMAN COPELAND DRAPER, LL.D.  
First secretary of the Society, 1853-1886.

*WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY BUILDING*

timately, for in social life his was the reticence of a hermit; but to know Dr. Draper was to recognize beneath his armor of reserve, a savant graced with the gentleness of a woman—one who loved flowers, birds, and children, and who in his daily walks would stoop to remove obstructions upon which the aged or the blind might stumble.

In those early days of storm and stress, when state assistance was paltry, when often the fortunes of the Society trembled in the balance, when some "practical" men saw little in the work that was worthy of recognition, and others, who thought that there was "something in it," would gladly have brought the Society's work within the demoralizing influences of practical politics, such a man as Draper was literally essential to its being. His hermit tastes enabled him, much of the time, to survive upon a salary which most of our library assistants of to-day would find inadequate to their needs. He could not be starved out; he staid by his colors, no matter how the battle went, and in the end came victory. When at last he laid down his task for others to carry forward, the State Historical Society had become more widely known among scholars everywhere, than any other educational institution in Wisconsin; its future was assured.

Great has been the progress since then. The library has doubled in size; the number of readers day by day has been multiplied by thirty; the activities of the Society have spread into new channels; the work of investigation and publication and assistance to scholars has broadened; the museum and gallery now receive sixty thousand visitors each twelve-month; to-day we are housed in a building costing upwards of half a million dollars, against the paltry \$50,000 which in 1882 Draper vainly begged the legislature to appropriate for a permanent home for our collections; and I believe that in Wisconsin the Society is far more popular than ever before. I think, however, we shall all agree that this has been but the outgrowth of the self-denying work of Dr. Draper, who from 1851 to 1886 nurtured this Society through critical experiences which would have discouraged most men. It is ours to maintain the traditions which the founder has left us, to carry on the work to its highest development.

Let us not suppose that the ambitions of the Wisconsin Historical Society are to remain satisfied with the ceremonies of to-day. We are proud of our new building, we are grateful to the two governors and three successive legislatures whose bounty have rendered it possible, we welcome the presence of our friends upon so interesting an occasion; but most of all do we rejoice in the new opportunities for helpfulness to the cause of history and of general culture in the Middle West, which are possible in this enlarged environment in the neighborhood of our lusty neighbor, the University of Wisconsin. Enlarged opportunities bring fresh responsibilities, and necessitate greatly increased funds. The cost of maintaining a building of this character is far greater than is commonly supposed. Despite the increased annual appropriation which followed our removal thither, and the sharing with the State University of some of the expenses of maintenance, this is wholly swallowed up in such expenses. Literally, we have nothing left with which to buy books—and a library without a book-purchasing fund is, to say the least, in an awkward position. An additional annual appropriation of \$12,000 is a necessity for which we shall be obliged to appeal to the next legislature.

Other great American libraries have obtained some of their most important collections through private generosity. Unfortunately, we have thus far received few notable accessions from this source. Most sincerely do we hope that this cannot long be said of our library; that with so beautiful a setting as this, large special collections will soon find their way to the shelves which eagerly await them.

In our financial estimates, we have omitted additions to our historical and ethnographical museum. Yet this department of our work is of high educational value, and appeals strongly

#### *DEDICATION CEREMONIES*

to a constituency which is not reached by the library. Is it too much to ask that the museum, at least, may be liberally treated by Wisconsin philanthropists? With ample and beautiful cases in which to exhibit special collections, it is sincerely hoped that public-spirited citizens of wealth may now feel it a pleasant duty to perform their part towards placing the museum on a better footing, either by direct gifts or by endowment. It is commonly said that state aid deadens private interest; this is not true of many state institutions elsewhere, and ought not to be true of ours. We have a right to suppose that the experiences of other libraries and museums may be our own: that to a new building come fresh gifts.

It is not alone in our library and museum that we now feel it fair to hope for private benefactions that shall supplement public assistance. In the field work of the Society, in the direction of archaeological investigations, in the study of our Indian tribes, in the accumulation of manuscripts and other material illustrating the life of Western pioneers and the movements hither of other peoples, foreign and domestic, and in the fostering of that historic consciousness among our people which is the basis of civic patriotism, this institution sorely needs substantial aid from the public-spirited philanthropists of Wisconsin. In no other branch of higher education in our state can better results be secured than in fostering the manifold activities of this Society, in its library, its museum, its investigations, and its publications.

We have heard much to-day of the success wrought by this Society during the fifty-one years of its existence. I venture to say that to those who, succeeding us, shall celebrate its centennial within these walls, the first half century will seem to have indeed been a time of modest accomplishment. We are but on the threshold of our possibilities. Given successive generations of men at the council board who shall carry forward the Society's traditions, and, in the changing temper of the times, lose no opportunity to improve upon them, who shall be keenly alive to the rapid development of library and museum methods as instruments of public education, and who shall regard history as not mere antiquarianism but as a living study of all that man has thought and wrought; given to these men adequate public recognition and support, aided by private munificence, and it is fair to predict that the Wisconsin Historical Society, now safely launched upon its new career, will achieve results of which the men of the twenty-first century may well be proud.



From corner of State and Park streets; showing south book-stack wing.  
A REAR VIEW

GREETINGS FROM SISTER HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

BY CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS, LL. D.

**T**O ME, Mr. President, has been assigned the pleasant duty of extending to the State Historical Society of Wisconsin the greetings and congratulations of her sister historical societies on this her day of fruition. Nor will I pretend to deny that there is a certain propriety in the assignment; for, not only do I represent here the Massachusetts Society,—the oldest sister in the family,—but, in addition to that, it so chances that my own personal associations with Madison date far back, and the place is associated in my recollection with the presence and utterances of distinguished men at a momentous historical juncture. It is exactly forty years—forty years on the eleventh of last month—since the events to which I refer occurred. I then was in Madison for the first time; nor have I been here since. So, I submit, I may fairly claim that few here, not to the manner born, have with Madison an older acquaintance than I.

To this I propose presently to recur; and, as is apt to be the case when recourse is had to reminiscence, I fancy what I then have to say will prove my most interesting contribution to the occasion. Before doing so, however, I must, as best I may, perform my part as representing here the oldest sister. When, however, it comes to talking of age, it is somewhat amazing to find how little the difference is, and how young our societies all are. I have said that the society I represent, the Massachusetts Historical Society, is the oldest sister in the American family of historical societies. So far as the material of history, man's record of himself, is concerned, what a vista of irretrievable loss is opened by that simple statement! You of Wisconsin are more fortunate than we of Massachusetts, in that your state and your Society are practically coeval. With us, more than five whole generations of men, filling a century and three-quarters of time, had mingled with the dust, before it occurred to our ancestors to make any provision for the collecting and safe-keeping of the records of the race. How different would it have been for us,—what then neglected but now invaluable treasures would have been saved and handed down,—had John Winthrop, and John Cotton,



CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS, LL. D.  
President of the Massachusetts Historical  
Society.

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Saltonstall, Endicott, and Dudley formed themselves in 1640 into such an organization as Lyman C. Draper here gathered about him in 1854.

But in the mere matter of age, also, your Wisconsin institution treads hard on the heels of us of Massachusetts. Our community preceded yours by two centuries; your Society is already close upon half the age of ours. We date from 1791; you from 1849. How rapid and how vigorous the growth has been, and what energy and fruitfulness it indicates! Massachusetts leads the column. Next comes New York, in 1804; New Jersey, in 1818; Rhode Island, in 1822; New Hampshire, in 1823; Pennsylvania and Connecticut, in 1825. To-day, in Massachusetts alone, we have over fifty such societies; while, on the English-speaking portions of this North American continent, the number exceeds four hundred. Of my sense of the mission of these societies, of the supreme importance of that mission as an element and an inspiration in the progressive development of this nation of ours, I propose to say something more fully on this occasion, but not here or now. For the moment, suffice it that, in the name of all her sisters, I congratulate the State Society of Wisconsin on its marvelous growth, on what it has already done and on what it has yet to do—on its great promise, even more than on its excellent performance; but, above all, on the stimulating example it has set, and the high standard of excellence here established to incite the emulation of others. Not the least value of this edifice, is as an object lesson. For, if Massachusetts leads the column, Wisconsin by this noble edifice sets the pace.

And now let me recur to the other and more interesting portion of my theme, contributing an historical item to your records. As I told you when I began, my acquaintance with Madison, though slight, is not the less vivid for being remote. For from the standpoint of 1900, I revert in memory to 1860; and, recalling the men and events of those days, it seems as if a deluge and a cataclysm intervened between us and them. A presidential canvass is now going on; a corresponding canvass was going on then. I am glad, indeed, to say that the canvass now in progress augurs differently from that of 1860—the canvass which, resulting in the election of Abraham Lincoln, ominously ushered in the great Civil War. It was an event in that canvass which brought me to Madison. In August of that year it was my great good fortune to be invited by William H. Seward to accompany him in an election tour he was planning through those states of the Northwest which shortly before had given him an earnest though unavailing support in that Chicago convention which selected Lincoln as the standard-bearer of the party of freedom and the Union, in the unforeseen struggle then immediately impending. Some here, doubtless, will still recall the remarkable series of utterances Governor Seward gave out in quick succession in the course of that tour,—beginning in Michigan, sweeping up through Wisconsin and Minnesota, passing thence into Kansas, back to Illinois, and closing in Ohio. They are historical.

My father, at the time a member of congress, accompanied Governor Seward in this progress, and I was of their train. It was my father's custom then, as throughout his life, to keep a somewhat elaborate record of occurrences, which, with an observance almost religious, he daily noted down. In now looking over this diary, I find that he referred to the reception at Madison as "peculiarly flattering, as it was without regard to party." The Catholic Irish element insisted upon appearing out of respect to Governor Seward." Here, as in Southern Michigan, from which the party had just come, the diarist noted with interest the number of emigrants from Massachusetts; but found them "not so many in proportion as there; the New York element prevailing." This was on the eleventh of September; and, the following day, he visited the University and the rooms of the Historical Society. Of the former he spoke as a state institu-

#### DEDICATION CEREMONIES

tion "lately established." "It is," he wrote, "situated admirably, having a beautiful prospect of the Lake on each side, and commanding a wide circumference, perhaps not less than twenty-five miles. As yet everything is in the raw; the interior of the main edifice is not quite completed. The Professors, with several of whom I was made acquainted, were engaged in hearing the classes; and one of them, Mr. Butler,<sup>1</sup> I remember to have seen at Quincy a year or two since, and he showed us the little there was to see of books and curiosities; but the library is insignificant, and very carelessly kept. Perhaps, after the room assigned for it is completed, the arrangements may be perfected. There are about eighty students now in attendance. The institution is based upon a grant of lands, made at the time of the organization of the state by the general government. This fund has been preserved, and the interest is faithfully applied,—a thing highly creditable to the young state, which has much overstrained itself in its efforts to accelerate progress. In this case, as in all others in a young community, time must be the only remedy. Professor Butler accompanied us back to visit the rooms of the Historical Society, which, as a collection of literature, are really much better worth examining."

So much for a diary entry made here in September, 1860, by him to whose name I have succeeded. But it so chanced that I also then made a record of what occurred — the record of a young man, but still not absolutely without interest now. It was here in Madison that I first heard Governor Seward address an audience. Afterwards, I heard him frequently; but never to such good effect as here. I remember the scene and circumstances well. It was a fine, fresh autumnal day; and, leaving Milwaukee in the early morning, we reached Madison at mid-day. Here Governor Seward was met in state, and escorted to the quarters assigned him, where the assembled crowd loudly called on him to address them. Of Governor Seward as an orator, after thus first listening to him, I wrote: "In presence, he is far from imposing. Small and insignificant, with little apparent inspiration, not well formed and with no advantages of voice, of face, or manner, he is yet interesting. His matter gains nothing from his delivery; in fact, I think his speeches read better by far than they sound, and I do not know that any one would listen to him while speaking, did they not know that it was William H. Seward. But on this occasion he was almost impressive, as standing hat in hand, leaning on the rail of the balcony, he spoke with a fervour and grandeur which, unaccompanied as it was by a single gesture, and with no oratorical display in voice or manner, produced on his audience a most sensible effect."

The meeting was to be held the afternoon of the following day. I well remember that day also; for then, in the soft light of an early autumn morning,—windless, clear, and mellow,—I made acquaintance with Madison. "In truth," I wrote, "God made Madison the fairest town-site I ever yet have seen. Lying in the midst of this glorious, rolling prairie country of unsurpassed fertility, and surrounded by its four beautiful lakes, it is a fit spot for the capital of a great and prosperous state." Later in the day, the whole party was taken out to the estate of a gentleman from the East, named Robbins, situated some miles from Madison and in a region of infinite beauty; and there for the first time saw a form of Western life which caused in me a feeling of envy, accustomed as I was to our less kindly and expansive Eastern conditions. "There was," as I then wrote, "something noble about the magnificent farm, with its broad fields and the beautiful, rolling prospect vanishing in faint, blue, distant prairies, upon which cattle were grazing."

Doubtless there are those here now listening to me who were here also on the occasion I have referred to, and remember its incidents. They, too, probably regard the intervening

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<sup>1</sup> Prof. James Davie Butler, who participated in the exercises of which this address was a part.—ED.

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period and its events with somewhat the same awe, not unmixed with sadness, with which I feel myself impressed. Forty years have since rolled away; and, even in the early Biblical sense, forty years is no inconsiderable time, covering as it did the period during which the children of Israel were doomed to tarry in the wilderness. When I last was in Madison, I looked upon Governor Seward and my father as men advanced in years; in eminence, they unquestionably stood in the front rank. I have come back here now, very materially older than the oldest of the two then was. They both long since died, aged men; and of those then prominent in our political life, not one is prominent now, while the morning's despatches tell us that the last survivor of that race is passing away.<sup>1</sup> Of those who then reigned in other lands, earth's potentates, two alone still occupy their thrones—Victoria of England, and Francis Joseph of Austria. In this country, a presidential canvass was then in progress; we have since passed through nine more such canvasses, and a tenth is drawing to its close. Of the two candidates now for the position to which we were then striving to elevate Abraham Lincoln, one was, when I was last in Madison, a youth of seventeen, the other an infant of six months. In those forty years great events have occurred; great names have been inscribed on the roll of fame; much history has been made; but, while Wisconsin has developed into a community which in numbers vies with Massachusetts, Madison still rests here, a queen enthroned amid her encompassing lakes.

Of the growth of your University and of this institution, I will not speak. When I stood here last, listening to Governor Seward, as he addressed your people of a previous generation in the neighboring square, your State Historical Society consisted practically of one earnest man, and a small miscellaneous collection of books and material for which he was sedulously seeking a home. He long since rested from his labors, and we have just listened to what his successor, your present secretary, has not less gracefully than fittingly said of him. I have alluded to that Biblical wilderness period of forty years, but the homeless wanderings of your Society covered a yet longer term. Organized on the thirtieth of January, 1849, it was not until January, 1854, that you developed a Moses. For over thirty years, Lyman Copeland Draper was then with you, laboring, soliciting, hoping; but not until he had been four years in the grave, did these walls we are here to dedicate begin to rise. For your Moses, there were no Pisgah heights upon which the morning light was to break on his face as he viewed the promised land. Not the less for that are these walls his monument, his handiwork; and now, as the sister societies, a numerous band, few of which fifty years ago were in existence, gather here from all over the land fittingly to commemorate this occasion,—the day upon which you take formal possession of the stately edifice in which you and your treasures are hereafter to be gathered together,—it devolves on me, a stranger, to remind you of memorable scenes which once occurred here in this town of Madison, of changes which have taken place, and also of the laborer who is gone. And herein is that saying true: "One soweth and another reapeth. Other men labored, and ye are entered into their labors."

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<sup>1</sup>John Sherman, of Ohio, died at Washington, D. C., three days later, October 22d.—Ed.

GREETINGS FROM SISTER LIBRARIES

BY JAMES KENDALL HOSMER, LL. D.

 HAVE been invited on this delightful occasion to speak for the sister libraries, and I find the task one not altogether easy to fulfill. The feminine world is well known to be prone to jealousy; and I fear, if the sister libraries spoke their full minds, there would be some expression of chagrin over the splendors which the library of the Wisconsin Historical Society is assuming, while they are obliged to be content with such modest conditions. Then where am I to begin and where am I to end in counting the sisterhood? Am I to include Mr. Carnegie's new libraries? But they, for the most part, are as yet scarcely born. On the other hand, am I to include the library at Nippur, in Mesopotamia? But that flourished five thousand years before Christ; and since communications with Nippur are somewhat interrupted, I might have some trouble in ascertaining the sentiments of the Nippur librarians as to the new Wisconsin departure. I can, however, by no means leave out Nippur; for Nippur among libraries is, so to speak, a *perfect brick*; in fact, it is seventeen thousand bricks,—the conscientious explorer seems to have counted them,—and he reckons that there are one hundred and fifty thousand more still to be unearthed—broad tablets of clay baked in the sun, containing closely stamped inscriptions that are decipherable and ranged along shelves for easy access.

But if I include in the sisterhood Nippur, I must of course include also the libraries of Assyria and Egypt, and what were they? A house was something more to an Egyptian or Ninevite than a place to dwell in, for it was a book as well. The libraries were the towns and cities, crowded with volumes large and small; from the cottage of the laborer, where poverty had only opportunity to stamp a line or two, to the palace of the satrap or Great King, where avenues stretched sometimes for miles, lined with inscriptions in hieroglyphics or the cuneiform, paralleled with a splendid pictorial representation of the exploits described. Those ancient libraries certainly had advantages. There were never any dog's ears: there were no bills to pay for binding: no one had



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to go the rounds with the dusting-brush, for the winds took care of that. Then how solemn the thought of their permanence! Thebes and Bealbec, Memphis and Nineveh still preserve on their walls the memorials of their founders. The traveler hears the desert blast sweep by him: the wild beast is scared from his desert-lair by the unusual sound of a human footfall—but there in the wilderness stands the record, as distinct to-day as if each century had been an Old Mortality, sent to deepen the chiseling, or had come with a brush to renew the splendor of the old tints.

But if the ancient libraries are to have a place in the sisterhood, room must be found, of course, for those of mediaeval times—and what were they? Not long since I held in my hands a manuscript believed to be at least a thousand years old, inscribed upon purple vellum in characters of gold. As I turned over the leaves, the letters flashed up to the eye from the imperial page like stars out of a darkening night. It was the veritable manuscript presented by Leo X to Henry VIII, at the beginning of the sixteenth century, for his services as "Defensor Fidei" (defender of the faith), and is as clear and bright to-day as it was when the great pope bestowed it upon the king. Such are the memorials of the mediaeval libraries, and in comparison with them how frail and perishable appear the receptacles to which we have committed the treasure of our literature! Their strongest clasps yield to the thumb-nail; the wind may blow them away, the flames devour them: they crumble beneath the fingers: their frailness invites destruction.

But I am no pessimist in these matters. While I am very sure that as regards sumptuousness and permanence, modern libraries will stand a poor comparison with those of the past, I am certain that as regards what they contain, the thought, our libraries are infinitely superior. The modern book—it is the essential of the higher life—the very bread of the soul! There are books that simply amuse, and in a much-tried, hard-working world their place is an important one. There are books which are like the parallel bars and vaulting-horses of a gymnasium, designed to make strong and supple the intellectual muscles and sinews. Again there are books that increase wisdom; for though no adage is triter or truer than that wisdom comes only through experience, there are books through which each man may add to his individual experience that of multitudes of other men, and so infinitely enrich and deepen his wisdom. Then what shall be said as to books of philosophy? and of high poetry, so stimulative to all such as live in the spirit? And if it be declared that the great poets are all dead, and that no one now cares for poetry, have we not in its place the novel? and what is a noble novel but an epic without rhythm and rhyme indeed, but thrilled with the joy and grief, with the pain, passion, and aspiration of the human heart!—Such are our books, the very substance of the higher life; and the function of the sisterhood of libraries is to gather into their ample alcoves these precious stores and distribute them for the satisfaction of the mind's hunger and thirst, that never dies.

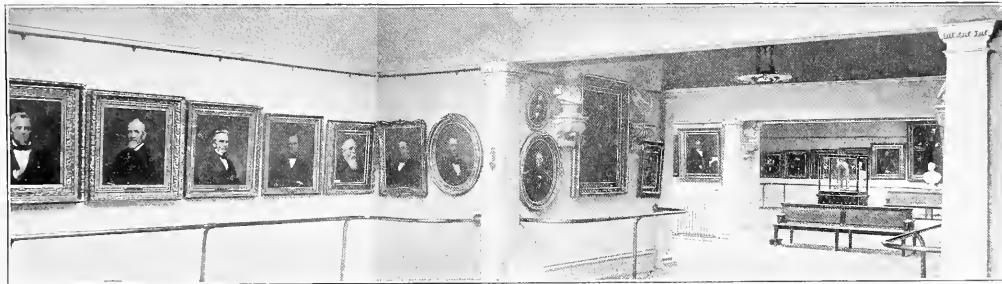
Among human institutions is there one whose function is higher? Senator George F. Hoar, by many regarded as the first citizen of Massachusetts at the present time, speaking not long since at the dedication of a library, declared himself substantially as follows:

"There is no city so great or renowned that does not wear its public library as the brightest jewel of its crown; nor is there any town so humble that, if it but have a public library, is not thereby dignified and distinguished. Among the titles to a high place which Massachusetts boasts at the present moment, not one is more valid than this—that of her three hundred and sixty-five towns, more than three hundred and sixty have public libraries. Some thirty years since, when I first entered public life, I had a friend, a bright and distinguished man from

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Pennsylvania, who was fond of rallying me upon what he called the conceit of Massachusetts people; we were constantly making claims that were unfounded: we were really no better than we should be. I asked him one day when he didn't know what I was driving at, who were the six great poets of America. After a moment's thought he replied, Why, Bryant, Longfellow, Emerson, Lowell, Whittier, and Holmes. And who, said I, are the six great historians? Why, Bancroft, Sparks, Prescott, Motley, Parkman, and Irving. And who are the six great orators? And he mentioned Webster, Everett, Choate, and Wendell Phillips among the six. Now, said I, do you notice that all your poets, all your historians but one, and four out of your six orators, are Massachusetts men? I believe," continued Senator Hoar, "that the judgment of my friend was entirely just. The men he mentioned have been our leaders in these high fields. They are Massachusetts men, for the most part from Eastern Massachusetts; and if I am asked to account for this luxuriant flowering of intellectual life, I will say that I ascribe it to the early existence at Boston and Cambridge of great public libraries, at whose generous springs eager genius could drink in the refreshment that enabled it to blossom and bear fruit."

Among the states of the West, Wisconsin has won an honorable pre-eminence in the matter of the public library. I believe you are sowing seed from which in the near future you are destined to reap a gratifying harvest. To-day you install the noblest of your libraries in a fitting and beautiful enclosure. The sisterhood of libraries extends to you greeting and congratulation. It is a majestic company, extending on the one hand as we have seen into the very morning of time, and on the other hand fronting open-eyed the full light of the twentieth century. Greeting and congratulation! For whatever distinctions your noble commonwealth may attain, sweetness and light for her will culminate nowhere else than within these stately halls.



IN THE MUSEUM  
Leading eastward, through the south gallery.



THE SOUTH ELEVATION  
Showing depth of building, from front to rear. The south book-stack wing shows in left of picture.

## ON THE TEACHING OF HISTORY

BY ANDREW CUNNINGHAM MC LAUGHLIN.

**T**O SPEAK on the subject of teaching history, almost under the shadow of the University of Wisconsin, is like carrying a bucket of coals to Newcastle. Inasmuch as the hour is late, I shall endeavor to make my load exceedingly small, and offer only a trivial contribution to the thoughts of this occasion.

Although I cannot, in any proper sense, be considered a representative of the state of Michigan or of the University of Michigan, I am compelled to assume the role and offer a word of praise and congratulation to a sister state and to a sister institution. We cannot help remembering, when we see what Wisconsin is doing, that in a certain way you are doing our task for us. In preserving the works of your own early history, you are saving the material of our history also. Until a little over sixty years ago, Wisconsin belonged to Michigan; or, perhaps I ought to say, in this presence, that Michigan belonged to Wisconsin. The early French travelers, the soldiers, priests, and traders, who traversed this Western region, belong to us in common. Nicolet, Joliet, Marquette, La Salle,—that man of adamant,—and Cadillac, the founder of Detroit, are our heroes as well as yours. While we congratulate you, therefore, on the collection of this vast store of interesting material, we felicitate ourselves upon the thought that some one is doing this work of collection and preservation with so much thoroughness and wisdom.

The teaching of history—if I must talk upon that subject—has entered upon a new phase within the course of the last few years. I think I am right in saying that in a very large measure this change has come within the last five years, certainly within the last ten. Throughout the land, in the better schools, and especially in all this Northwestern country, we find that history now has a place on the school curriculum beside the old tenants, who have held from time immemorial the most honored positions on the programme. It is treated on terms of equality with Latin and Greek and mathematics and the physical sciences. That history has won that place, is



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Professor of History in University of Michigan.

due to the fact that it is looked upon by teachers, no longer as merely an information study, but as a disciplinary study. It is not simply an entertaining narrative of a series of events about which it is pleasant to have some trifling knowledge. The school authorities have come to realize that by the systematic and thorough study of history the mind is cultivated, the intelligence is awakened, the memory and the imagination are stimulated, the judgment is deepened and broadened. They realize that it has culture value; for it brings the pupil into contact with the highest thought and movement of the past. No study can hold or should hold a conspicuous place in the school programme unless it gives valuable information and at the same time has a distinctly elevating and educative influence.

In the courses of commercial or higher industrial education, which have recently been established in a number of the leading universities, history has been given a prominent place. These courses are intended to be practical and semi-professional in character; and those who have not watched the progress of modern educational thought may, at first, be somewhat surprised to find that the subject of history has been given this recognition. What has history to do with commerce? What can it avail a merchant who is seeking to sell ships of war and reapers to Russia, or bibles and rifles to the islands of the sea, to know any series of historical events? Commerce, it may be said, has nothing to do with the past; it seeks to seize the present, and looks only to the future. I am not ready to assert that the study of historical occurrences will have any immediate utility for the man of business, or be immediately helpful to the student who is desirous of becoming a money-maker; but if business is to be elevated into a profession, or, let me say, recognized as a profession, it must be because the business man is fully aware of the fact that he has social duties, that he has a public part to play, a public function to perform. He must be able to take a broad outlook, to see things in their human relations, to comprehend the wider and deeper bearings of his daily tasks. Now history is a social study—I may be bold enough, under the present circumstances, to say that it is pre-eminently the social study. It has to do with the activities of men as social beings. It does not deal with theories, but with actualities; not with formulæ, but facts; not with abstractions or absolute propositions, but with the concrete conduct of men. We cannot repeat to ourselves too often the well-known and much-used saying of Bolingbroke, that history is philosophy teaching by examples—in other words, that by studying the actual acts and facts of the past, the principles of human action are disclosed. It would be strange, indeed, if the courses that are intended to prepare students for the active duties of life and fit them to become men of the world and forceful men of affairs, could find no place for the one educational subject which deals with the hopes, ambitions, strivings, and aspirations of humanity. In all school or college work we must not lose sight of our public responsibility, we must acknowledge the ever-present need for elevating and stimulating work. And in endeavoring to give the student preparing for commercial life a knowledge of the fundamental laws of commerce and industry, and an appreciation of social responsibilities, universities and colleges are not becoming merely technical; they are not losing sight of either ethical principles or culture.

Even if it be denied that history has one whit to do with commerce and industry, or with fitting students for the responsibilities of active life, we can never lose sight of the fact that all of our public institutions have this duty laid close at their door: they must prepare the young men and women, that are intrusted to their charge, for intelligent, sober, thoughtful citizenship. No school or university course is complete without its modicum of history; for history surely teaches one to think widely and earnestly on matters of political interest; it leads him to some realization of the significance of the great propelling impulses of the past; it brings him to some

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appreciation of the significance and seriousness of the present. Thiers, the great French statesman, sought a definition for freedom and a freedom-regarding state. Freedom surely does not consist in dropping white pieces of paper into a black ballot-box. "The free state," said Thiers, "is a moral being which thinks before it acts." Mr. Bryce, the author of *The American Commonwealth*, in one of his journeys through this country, visited a Western legislature in session, and was asked to appear before that body and speak to it. He spoke to the legislators of the dignity of their work, reminding them that in the making of laws, the building up of institutions, they were performing tasks of far more than momentary interest and importance; that the deeds that seemed only for a day would, beyond question, influence the destinies of the people and mould the nature of the state for many decades, if not for numberless generations. The law-makers seemed to be very much surprised and impressed by Mr. Bryce's words. They had never thought of their work as having special significance or influence. They were living in the present without so much as thinking of the effects which their acts might have on posterity. These men surely could not have been students of history; for by studying the past, one comes to feel its immense propulsive power; and he realizes too, in some measure, that the ever-fleeting present is full of forces and energies that will dominate the future.

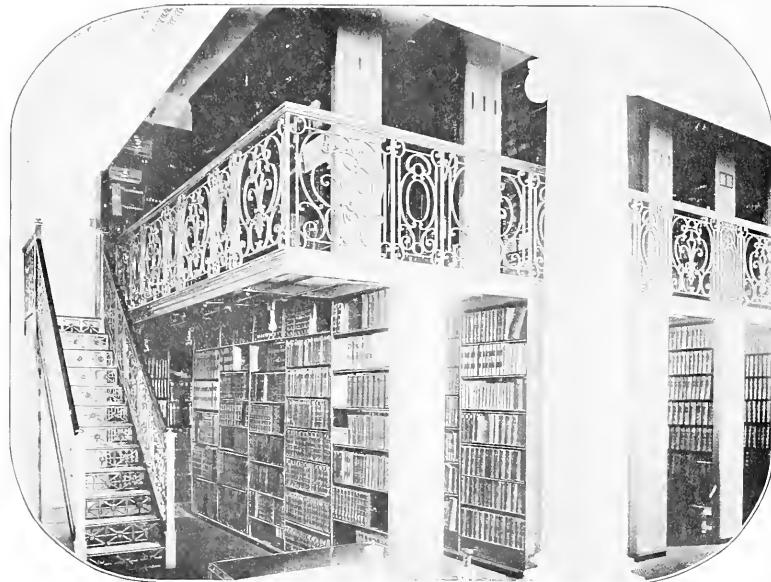
Like all other subjects worthy of serious consideration from an educational standpoint, the great aim of history is to teach students to reverence truth. It seeks to give them some skill and adroitness in detecting falsehood, in separating the fictitious from the real. Its methods are, in the widest and best sense, scientific, and it is thoroughly entitled to take its place in the school programme as a scientific study. I know of nothing that has more profoundly influenced human thinking in the course of the last fifty years, than the development and thoughtful use of the historical method. There is no sacrifice in putting Niebuhr and von Ranke by the side of Darwin. We are told by Waldstein, the director of the classical school at Athens, that he was one day speculating concerning what he might find as a reward for certain excavations. He believed that in a particular place he would discover the tomb of Aristotle. As he thought and speculated, somewhat uncertain as to what he should do, he asked the opinion of one of his workmen who had helped him in similar undertakings. The old Greek gave with promptness this laconic answer: "Dig down to virgin soil. Your only archaeologist is the spade." Such is the motto of modern scholarship in whatever field of investigation it may be employed.

These thoughts bring us back again to this beautiful building and its even more precious treasures. Here is an opportunity to reach the virgin soil, to examine the original material out of which truthful history can be built. Your president has said that the time might come when even European students, or the professors of German universities, might wish to come to America for historical work. I venture to assert that the time has already arrived when some fields of historical study can profitably be pursued only in America. One phase of American history, and that perhaps the most important,—the expansion of the American people, the extension of American civilization from the Atlantic seaboard across the Mississippi Valley and on toward the farthest West, the building up of this great republic as the tides of emigration poured over the Alleghenies and onward to the Pacific,—can be thoroughly and satisfactorily pursued only here at Madison.

In conclusion, I congratulate the Society and the state on the possession of this spacious and artistic building and this magnificent collection; and while I say this, I wish also to congratulate the Society on being so situated that the material which has been collected with so much wisdom and pains can be used to the utmost advantage and in a way productive of the best results. It seems unbecoming, almost impudent in me, to use any words of fulsome

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praise of the institution of learning to which this Society has offered such advantages. I may say, however, that the University has made wise and satisfactory use of its opportunities. There are only a few places in the country, I hesitate to say how few, where the various fields of historical work can be examined by the student under the most competent and authoritative instruction and with a vast wealth of material at his command. One of these places is the University of Wisconsin.



IN THE PERIODICAL ROOM

## THE SIFTED GRAIN AND THE GRAIN SIFTERS

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DEDICATION ADDRESS BY CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS, LL. D.

N OCCASIONS such as this, a text upon which to discourse is not usual; I propose to venture an exception to the rule. I shall, moreover, offer not one text only but two: my first, from a discourse prepared in the full theological faith of the seventeenth century; my second, from the most far-reaching scientific publication of the century now drawing to its close.

“God sifted a whole Nation that He might send choice Grain over into this Wilderness,” said William Stoughton in the election sermon preached according to custom before the Great and General Court of Massachusetts in April, 1668. To the same effect Charles Darwin wrote in 1871: “There is apparently much truth in the belief that the wonderful progress of the United States, as well as the character of the people, are the results of natural selection; for the more energetic, restless, and courageous men from all parts of Europe have emigrated during the last ten or twelve generations to that great country and have there succeeded best;” and the quiet, epoch-marking, creed-shaking naturalist then goes on to express this startling judgment, which, uttered by an American, would have been deemed the very superlative of national vanity: “Looking to the distant future, I do not think [it] an exaggerated view [to say that] all other series of events—as that which resulted in the culture of mind in Greece, and that which resulted in the Empire of Rome—only appear to have purpose and value when viewed in connection with, or rather as subsidiary to, the great stream of Anglo-Saxon emigration to the West.”<sup>1</sup>

Such are my texts; but, while I propose to preach from them largely, and to them in a degree, I am not here to try to instruct you to-day in the history of your own state of Wisconsin, or in the magic record relating to the development of what we see fit to call the Northwest. Indeed I am not here as an individual at all; nor as one in any way specially qualified to do justice to the occasion. I am here simply as the head, for the time being, of what is unquestionably the oldest historical society in America; and, if reference is made to societies organized exclusively for the preservation of historical material and the furtherance of historical research, one than which few indeed anywhere in existence are more ancient of years. As the head of the Massachusetts Historical Society, I have been summoned to contribute what I may in honor of the completion of this edifice, the future home of a similar society, already no longer young;—a society grown up in a country which, when the Massachusetts institution was formed, was yet the home of aboriginal tribes,—a forest-clad region known only to the frontiersman and

<sup>1</sup> *The Descent of Man* (ed. 1874), vol. ii, pp. 218, 219.

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explorer. Under such circumstances, I did not feel that I had a right not to answer the call. It was as if in our older Massachusetts time the pastor of the Plymouth or of the Salem or Boston Church had been invited to the gathering of some new brotherhood in the Connecticut Valley, or the lighting of another candle of the Lord on the Concord or the Nashua, there to preach the sermon of ordination and extend the right hand of fellowship.

And in this connection let me here mention one somewhat recondite historical circumstance relating to this locality. You here may be more curiously informed, but few indeed in Massachusetts are to-day knowing of the fact that this portion of Wisconsin — Madison itself, and all the adjoining counties — was once, territorially, a part of the royally assigned limits of Massachusetts.<sup>1</sup> Yet such was undisputedly the fact; and that fact lends a certain propriety, not the less poetic because remote and legendary, to my acceptance of the part here to-day assigned me.

Accepting that part, I none the less, as I have said, propose to break away from what is the usage in such cases. That usage, if I may have recourse to an old theological formula, is to improve the occasion historically. An address, eruditely and bristling with statistics, would now be in order. An address in which the gradual growth of the community or the institution should be developed, and its present condition set forth; with suitable reference to the days of small things, and a tribute of gratitude to the founders, and those who, patiently building their lives into the edifice, made of it their monument. The names of all such should, I agree, be cut deep over its portico; but this task, eminently proper on such occasions, I, a stranger, shall not undertake here and now to perform. For it, others are far better qualified. I do not, therefore, propose to tell you of the St. Francis Xavier mission at Green Bay, or of Nicolet; of Jacques Cartier, of Marquette or of Radisson, any more than of those two devoted benefactors and assiduous secretaries of this institution, Lyman C. Draper and Reuben G. Thwaites; but, leaving them, and their deeds and services, to be commemorated by those to the manner born, and, consequently, in every respect better qualified than I for the work, I shall turn to other topics. The time allotted me will be devoted to generalities, and to the future rather than to the past.

In an address delivered about eighteen months ago before the Massachusetts Historical Society,<sup>2</sup> I discussed in some detail the modern conception of history as compared with that which formerly prevailed. I do not now propose to repeat what I then said. It is sufficient for my present purpose to call attention to what we of the new school regard as the dividing line between us and the historians of the old school: the first day of October, 1859,—the date of the publication of Darwin's "Origin of Species;" the book of his immediately preceding the "Descent of Man," from which my text for to-day was taken. On the first day of October, 1859, the Mosaic cosmogony finally gave place to the Darwinian theory of evolution. Under the new dispensation, based not on chance, or an assumed supernatural revelation, but on a patient study of biology, that record of mankind known as history, no longer a mere succession of traditions and annals, has become a unified whole,—a vast scheme systematically developing to some result as yet not understood. Closely allied to astronomy, geology, and physics, the study of modern history seeks a scientific basis from which the rise and fall of races and dynasties will be seen merely as phases of a consecutive process of evolution,—the evolution of man from his initial to his ultimate state. When this conception was once reached,

<sup>1</sup> See Appendix A.

<sup>2</sup> "Historians and Historical Societies," *Massachusetts Historical Society Proceedings* (1899-1900), Second Series, vol. xiii, pp. 81-119.

history, ceasing to be a mere narrative made up of disconnected episodes having little or no bearing on each other, became a connected whole. To each development, each epoch, race, and dynasty, its proper place was to be assigned; and to assign that place was the function of the historian. Formerly each episode was looked upon as complete in itself; and, being so, it had features more or less dramatic or instructive, and, for that reason, tempting to the historian, whether investigator or literary artist,—a Freeman or a Froude. Now, the first question the historian must put to himself relates to the proper adjustment of his particular theme to the entire plan—he is shaping the fragment of a vast mosaic. The incomparably greater portion of history has, it is needless to say, little value—not much more than the biography of the average individual; it is a record of small accomplishment, in many instances a record of no accomplishment at all, perhaps of retrogression;—for we cannot all be successful, nor even everlastingly and effectively strenuous. Among nations in history, as among men, we know the commonplace is the rule; but whether ordinary or exceptional, conspicuous or obscure, each has its proper place, and to it that place should be assigned.

Having laid down this principle, I, eighteen months ago, proceeded to apply it to the society I was then addressing, and to the history of the commonwealth whose name that society bears; and I gave my answer to it, such as that answer was. The same question I now put as concerns Wisconsin; and to that also I propose to venture an answer. As my text has indicated, that answer, also, will not in a sense be lacking in ambition. In the history of Wisconsin I shall seek to find verification of what Darwin suggested—evidence of the truth of the great law of natural selection as applied also to man.

Thus stated, the theme, a large one, may be approached in many ways; and, in the first place, I propose to approach it in the way usual with modern historical writers. I shall attempt to assign to Wisconsin its place in the sequence of recent development; for it is only during the last fifty years that Wisconsin has exercised any, even the most imperceptible, influence on what is conventionally agreed upon as history. That this region before the year 1848 had an existence, we know; as we also know that, since the last glacial period when the earth's surface hereabouts assumed its present geographical form,—some five thousand, or, perhaps, ten, or even twenty thousand years ago,—it has been occupied by human beings,—fire-making, implement-using, garment-wearing, habitation-dwelling. With these we have now nothing to do. We, the historians, are concerned only with what may be called the mere fringe of Time's raiment,—the last half century of the fifty or one hundred centuries; the rest belong to the ethnologist and the geologist, not to us. But the last fifty years, again, so far as the evolution of man from a lower to a higher stage of development is concerned, though a very quickening period, has, after all, been but one stage, and not the final stage, of a distinct phase of development. That phase has now required four centuries in which to work itself out to the point as yet reached; for it harks back to the discovery of America, and the movement towards religious freedom which followed close upon that discovery, though having no direct connection with it. Martin Luther and Christopher Columbus had little in common except that their lives overlapped; but those two dates, 1492 and 1517,—the landfall at San Salvador, and the theses nailed on the church door at Wittenberg,—those two dates mark the opening of a new chapter in human history, the chapter in which is recounted the fierce struggle over the establishment of the principles of civil and religious liberty, and the recognition of the equality of men before the law. For, speaking generally but with approximate correctness, it may be asserted that, prior to the year 1500, the domestic political action and the foreign complications of even the most advanced nations turned on other issues,—dynastic, predatory, social; but,

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since that date, from the wars of Charles V, of Francis I, and of Elizabeth, down to our own Confederate rebellion, almost every great struggle or debate has either directly arisen out of some religious dispute or some demand for increased civil rights; or, if it had not there its origin, it has invariably gravitated in that direction. Even Frederick of Prussia, the so-called Great—that skeptical, irreligious, cut-purse of the Empire,—the disciple and protector of Voltaire and the apotheosized of Thomas Carlyle,—even Frederick figured as “the Protestant Hero;” while Francis I was “the Eldest Son of the Church,” and Henry VIII received from Rome the title of “Defender of the Faith.”

Since the year 1500, on the other hand, what is known as modern history has been little more than a narrative of the episodes in the struggle not yet closed against arbitrary rule, whether by a priesthood or through divine right, or by the members of a caste or of a privileged class,—ennobled or consecrated, plutocratic or industrial. The right of the individual man, no matter how ignorant or how poor, to think, worship, and act as seems to him best, provided always in so doing he does not infringe upon the rights of others, has through these four centuries been, as it still is, the underlying issue in every conflict. It seems likely, also, to continue to be the issue for a long time to come, for it never was more firmly asserted or sternly denied than now; though to-day the opposition comes, not, as heretofore, from above, but from below, and finds its widest and most formidable expression in the teachings of those socialists who preach a doctrine of collectivism, or the complete suppression of the individual.

That proposition, however, does not concern us here and now. Our business is with the middle period of the nineteenth century, and not with the first half of the twentieth; and, no matter how closely we confine ourselves to the subject, space and time for its handling will scarcely be found. Two and fifty years ago, when, in the summer of 1848, Wisconsin first took shape as a recognized political organization,—a new factor in man’s development,—human evolution was laboring over two problems,—nationality and slavery. Slavery—that is, the ownership of one man or one class of men by another man or class of men—had existed, and been accepted as a matter of course, from the beginning. Historically the proposition did not admit of doubt. In Great Britain, bondage had only recently disappeared; in Russia it was still the rule; and, while among the less advanced nations its rightfulness was nowhere challenged, with us here in America it was a question of race. The equality of whites before the law was an article of political faith; not so that of the blacks. The Africans were distinctly an inferior order of being; and, as such, not only in the Southern or slave states, but throughout the North also, not entitled to the unrestricted pursuit on equal terms of life, liberty, and happiness. Hence a fierce contention,—the phase as it presented itself on the land discovered by Columbus in 1492, of the struggle inaugurated by Luther in 1517. Its work was thus, so to speak, cut out for Wisconsin in advance of its being,—its place in the design of the great historical scheme prenatally assigned to it. How then did it address itself to its task? how perform the work thus given it to do? Did it, standing in the front rank of progress, help the great scheme along? Or, identifying itself with that reactionist movement ever on foot, did it strive with the stars in their courses?

Here, in the United States, the form in which the issue of the future took shape between 1830, when it first presented itself, and 1848, when Wisconsin entered the sisterhood of states, is even yet only partially understood, in such occult ways did the forces of development interact and exercise influence on each other. For reasons not easy to explain, also, certain states came forward as the more active exponents of antagonistic ideas,—on the one side Massachusetts; on the other, first, Virginia, and, later, South Carolina. The great and long sustained

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debate which closed in an appeal to force in the spring of 1861, we now dimly see was inevitable from fundamental conditions. It was not a question of slavery; it was one of nationality. The issue had presented itself over and over again, in various forms and in different parts of the country, ever since the constitution had been adopted,—now in Pennsylvania; now in Kentucky; now in New England; even here in Wisconsin: but, in its most concrete form, in South Carolina. It was a struggle for mastery between centripetal and centrifugal forces. At the close, slavery was, it is true, the immediate cause of quarrel; but the seat of disturbance lay deeper. In another country, and under other conditions, it was the identical struggle which, in feudal times, went on in Great Britain, in France, and in Spain, and which, more recently, and in our own day only, we have seen brought to a close in Germany and in Italy,—the struggle of a rising spirit of nationality to overcome the clannish instinct, ever asserting itself in the desire for local independence. In the beginning Virginia stood forward as the exponent of state sovereignty. Jefferson was its mouthpiece. It was he who drew up the famous Kentucky resolutions of 1798-99, and his election to the presidency in 1800 was the recognized victory of the school of states' rights over federalism. Later the parties changed sides,—as political parties are wont to do. Possession of the government led to a marked modification of views; new issues were presented; and in 1807, the policy which took shape in Jefferson's Embargo converted the Federalist into a disunion organization, which disappeared from existence in the famous Hartford Convention of 1814-15. New England was then the centre of the party of the centrifugal force, and the issues were commercial. Fortunately, up to 1815 the struggle between the spirit of local sovereignty and the ever-growing sense of nationality had not arisen over any matter of difference sufficiently great and far-reaching to provoke an appeal to force. Not the less was the danger of conflict there,—a sufficient cause and suitable occasion only were wanting, and those under ordinary conditions might be counted upon in due course of time to present themselves. They did present themselves in 1832, still under the economical guise. But now the moral issue lurked behind, though the South did not yet stand directly opposed to the advancing spirit of the age. But nullification—the logical outcome of the theory of absolute state sovereignty—was enunciated by Calhoun, and South Carolina took from Virginia the lead in the reactionary movement from nationality. The danger once more passed away; but it is obvious to us now, and, it would seem, should have been plain to any cool-headed observer then, that, when the issue next presented itself, a trial of strength would be well-nigh inevitable. The doctrine of state sovereignty, having assumed the shape of nullification, would next develop that of secession; the direct issue over nationality would then be presented.<sup>1</sup>

Almost before the last indications of danger over the economical question had disappeared, slavery loomed ominously up. Not realized at the time, it was now an angry wrangle over a step in the progressive evolution of the human race. The equality of man before the law and his Maker, insisted upon, was denied. A portentous issue, in it human destiny was challenged. The desperate risk the Southern States then took, is plain enough now. They entered upon a distinctly reactionary movement against two of the foremost growing forces of human development: the tendency to nationality and the humanitarian spirit. They knew it not, but they were arraying themselves against the very stars in their courses.

<sup>1</sup> In May, 1833, President Andrew Jackson wrote to Rev. Andrew J. Crawford: "The Tariff was only the pretext, and Disunion and a Southern Confederacy the real objects. The next pretext will be the Negro or Slavery Question."—Sumner's Works, vol. v, p. 235. See, also, *Proceedings of Massachusetts Historical Society* (1900-1901), second series, vol. xiv, pp. 370-372.



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Facing lower campus of the State University.

This being so, the secession-slavery movement between 1835 and 1860 was a predestined failure. Because of fortuitous events—the chances of the battlefield, the impulse of individual genius, the exigencies of trade or the blunders of diplomats—it might easily have had an apparent and momentary triumph; but the result upon which the slave power, as such, was intent—the creation about the Gulf of Mexico and in the Antilles of a great semi-tropical nationality, based on African servitude and a monopolized cotton production,—this result was in direct conflict with the irresistible tendencies of mankind in its present stage of development. A movement in all its aspects radically reactionary, it could at most have resulted only in a passing anomaly.

While the Southern, or Jamestown, column of Darwin's great Anglo-Saxon migration was thus following to their legitimate conclusions the teachings of Jefferson and Calhoun,—the Virginia and South Carolina schools of state sovereignty, slavery, and secession,—the distinctively Northern column,—that entering through the Plymouth and Boston portals,—instinctively adhered to those principles of church and state in the contention over which it originated. So doing, it found its way along the southern shores of the Great Lakes, through northern Ohio, southern Michigan, and northern Illinois, and then, turning north and west, spread itself over the vast region beyond the great lakes, and towards the upper waters of the Mississippi. But it is very noteworthy how the lead and inspiration in this movement still came from the original source. While in the South they passed from Virginia to Carolina, in the North they remained in Massachusetts. Three men then came forward there, voicing more clearly than any or all others what was in the mind of the community in the way of aspiration, whether moral or political. Those three were: William Lloyd Garrison, Daniel Webster, and John Quincy Adams; they were the prophetic voices of that phase of American political evolution then in process. Their messages, too, were curiously divergent; and yet, apparently contradictory, they were, in reality, supplementary to each other. Garrison developed the purely moral side of the coming issue. Webster preached nationality, under the guise of love of the Union. Adams, combining the two, pointed out a way to the establishment of the rights of man under the constitution and within the Union. While, in a general way, much historical interest attaches to the utterances and educational influence of those three men during the period under discussion, the future political attitude of Wisconsin, then nascent, was thereby deeply and especially affected. To this subject, therefore, I propose to devote some space; for, deserving attention, I am not aware that it has heretofore received it. In doing so I cannot ignore the fact of my own descent from one of the three I have named; but I may say in my own extenuation that John Quincy Adams was indisputably a considerable public character in his time, and when I, his descendant, undertake to speak of that time historically, I must, when he comes into the field of discussion, deal with him as best I may, assigning to him, as to his contemporaries, the place which, as I see it, is properly his or theirs. Moreover, I will freely acknowledge that an hereditary affiliation, if I may so express it, was not absent from the feeling which impelled me to accept your call. However much others had forgotten it, I well remembered that more than half a century ago, in the days of small things, it was in this region, as in central New York and the Western Reserve, the seed cast by one from whom I claim descent fell in the good ground where it bore fruit a hundred fold.

Recurring, then, to the three men I have named as voicing systematically a message of special significance in connection with the phase of political evolution, or of development if that word is preferred, then going on,—Garrison's message was distinctly moral and humanitarian. In a sense, it was reactionary, and violently so. In it there was no appeal to patriotism, no

recognition even of nationality. On the contrary, in the lofty atmosphere of humanitarianism in which he had his being, I doubt if Garrison ever inhaled a distinctively patriotic breath; while he certainly denounced the constitution and assailed the Union. He saw only the moral wrong of slavery, its absolute denial of the fundamental principles of the equality of men before the law and before God, and the world became his,—where freedom was, there was his country. To arouse the dormant conscience of the community by the fierce and unceasing denunciation of a great wrong was his mission; and he fulfilled it; but, curiously enough, the end he labored for came in the way he least foresaw, and through the very instrumentality he had most vehemently denounced,—it came within that Union which he had described as a compact with Death, and under that constitution which he had arraigned as a covenant with Hell. Yet Garrison was undeniably a prophet, voicing the gospel as revealed to him, fearlessly and without pause. As such he contributed potently to the final result.

Next Webster. It was the mission of Daniel Webster to preach nationality. In doing so he spoke in words of massive eloquence in direct harmony with the most pronounced aspiration of his time,—that aspiration which has asserted itself and worked the most manifest results of the nineteenth century in both hemispheres,—in Spain and Prussia during the Napoleonic war, in Russia during the long Slavonic upheaval, again more recently in Germany and in Italy, and finally in the United States. The names of Stein, of Cavour, and of Bismarck are scarcely more associated with this great instinctive movement of the century than is that of Daniel Webster. His mission it was to preach to this people Union, one and indivisible; and he delivered his message.

The mission of J. Q. Adams during his latest and best years, while a combination of that of the two others, differed from both. His message, carefully thought out, long retained, and at last distinctly enunciated, was his answer to the Jeffersonian theory of state sovereignty, and Calhoun's doctrine of nullification and its logical outcome, secession. With both theory and doctrine, and their results, he had during his long political career been confronted; on both he had reflected much. During the administration of Jefferson, and on the question of Union, he had, in 1807, broken with his party and resigned from the senate; and with Calhoun he had been closely associated in the cabinet of Monroe. Calhoun also had occupied the vice-presidential chair during his own administration. He now met Calhoun face to face on the slavery issue, prophetically proclaiming a remedy for the moral wrong and the vindication of the rights of man, within the Union and under the constitution, through the exercise of inherent war powers, whenever an issue between the sections should assume the insurrectionary shape. In other words, Garrison's moral result was to be secured, not through the agencies Garrison advocated, but by force of that nationality which Webster proclaimed. This solution of the issue, J. Q. Adams never wearied of enunciating, early and late, by act, speech, and letter; and his view prevailed in the end. Lincoln's proclamation of January, 1863, was but the formal declaration of the policy enunciated by J. Q. Adams on the floor of congress in 1836, and again in 1841, and yet again in greater detail in 1842.<sup>1</sup> It was he who thus brought the abstract moral doctrines of Garrison into unison of movement with the nationality of Webster.

The time now drew near when Wisconsin, taking her place in the Union, was to exert her share of influence on the national polity, and through that polity on a phase of political evolution. South Carolina, by the voice of Calhoun, was preaching reaction, because of slavery and in defiance of nationality; Massachusetts, through Garrison and Webster, was proclaiming

<sup>1</sup> See Appendix B.

the moral idea and nationality as abstractions; while J. Q. Adams confronted Calhoun with the ominous contention that, the instant he or his had recourse to force, that instant the moral wrong could be made good by the sword wielded under the constitution in defence of the Union.

As 1848 waxed old, the debate grew angry. J. Q. Adams died in the early months of that memorable year; but his death in no way affected the course of events. The leadership in the anti-slavery struggle on the floor of congress and within the limits of the constitution had already passed from him four years since. Too old longer to bear the weight of armor, he could not wield the once familiar weapons; but the effects of his teachings remained, and were living realities wherever the New England column had penetrated,—throughout central New York, in “the Western Reserve,” and especially in the region which bordered on Lake Michigan. Garrison still declaimed against the Union as an unholy alliance with sin; while in the mind of Webster, sense of the wrong of slavery was fast being overweighted by apprehension for nationality. Meanwhile, a war of criminal aggression against Mexico in behalf of Calhoun’s reactionary movement had been brought to a close, and the question was as to the partition of plunder. On that, great issues hinged, and over it was fought the presidential election of 1848. A little more than fifty years ago, that was the first such election in which Wisconsin participated. The number of those who now retain a distinct recollection of the canvass of 1848 and the questions then so earnestly debated are not many; I chance to be one of those few. I recall one trifling incident, connected not with the canvass but with the events of that year, which, for some reason, made an impression upon me, and now illustrates curiously the remoteness of the time. I have said that J. Q. Adams died in February, 1848. Carried back with much funeral pomp from the Capitol at Washington to Massachusetts, he was in March buried at Quincy. An eloquent discourse was there delivered over his grave by the minister of the church of which the ex-president had been a member. He who delivered it was a scholar, as well as a natural orator of high order; and, in the course of what he said he had occasion to refer to this remote region, then not yet admitted to statehood, and he did so under the name of “the Ouisconsin.” That discourse was delivered on the 11th of March, 1848; and, on the 29th of the following May Wisconsin became a state.

Returning now to the presidential election of 1848, it will be found that Wisconsin, the youngest community in the Union, came at once to the front as the banner state of the West in support of the principles on which the Union was established, and the maintenance and vindication of those fundamental principles within the Union and through the constitution. In that canvass the great issues of the future were distinctly brought to the front. The old party organizations then still confronted each other,—the Henry Clay Whigs were over against the Jacksonian Democracy. But in 1848 Lewis Cass was the logical candidate of the Democracy. Then a Northern man with Southern principles,—so far as African slavery was concerned a distinct reactionist from the principles of the great Declaration of 1776,—Lewis Cass, of Michigan, saw the path of duty clearly enough, following it with a firm tread, when thirteen years afterwards the ordeal came. But, in 1848, he, as nominee of the Jacksonian Democracy, was opposed to Gen. Zachary Taylor, of Louisiana, who had superseded Henry Clay as the candidate of the party which Clay had called into being. Himself a slave holder, with political affiliations unknown, if existent, General Taylor was nominated by a party which in presenting his name carefully abstained from any enunciation of principles. An unknown political quantity, no less a public character than Daniel Webster characterized his nomination as one not fit to be made. It yet remained to be seen that, practically, the plain, blunt, honest, well-meaning old soldier made an excellent president, whose premature death was deeply and with reason

deplored. His nomination, however, immediately after that of Cass, proved the signal for revolt. For the disciples of J. Q. Adams in both political camps, it was as if the cry had again gone forth, "To your tents, O Israel!"—and a first fierce blast of the coming storm then swept across the land. In August the dissentients met in conference at Buffalo, and there first enunciated the principles of the American political party of the future,—that party which, permeated by the sentiment of nationality, was destined to do away with slavery through the war power, and to incorporate into the constitution the principle of the equality of man before the law, irrespective of color or of race. Now, more than half a century after the event, it may fairly be said of those concerned in the Buffalo movement of 1848 that they were to earn in the fulness of time the rare distinction of initiating a party movement destined to carry mankind forward one distinct stage in the long process of evolution. In support of that movement Wisconsin was, as I have already said, the banner western state. In its action it simply responded to its early impulse received from New England and western New York. Thus did the seed fall in fertile places, and produce fruit. The law of natural selection, though not yet formulated, was at work.

The election returns of 1848 tell the story. They are still eloquent. The heart of the movement of that year lay in Massachusetts and Vermont. In those two states, taken together, the party of the future polled, in 1848, a little over 28 per cent of the aggregate vote cast. In Wisconsin it polled close upon 27 per cent; and this 27 per cent in Wisconsin is to be compared with 15 per cent in Michigan, 12 per cent in Illinois, less than 11 per cent in Ohio, and not 4 per cent in the adjoining state of Iowa. In the three neighboring states of Michigan, Illinois, and Iowa, taken together, the new movement gathered into itself 12 per cent of the total voting constituency, while in Wisconsin it counted, as I have said, over 26 per cent. Thus, in 1848, Wisconsin was the Vermont of the West; sending to Congress as one of its three representatives Charles Durkee, himself a son of Vermont, the first distinctively anti-slavery man chosen from the Northwest. Wisconsin remained the Vermont of the West. From its very origin, not the smallest doubt attached to its attitude. It emphasized it in words when in 1849 it instructed one of its senators at Washington "to immediately resign his seat" because he had "outraged the feelings of the people" by dalliance with the demands of the slave power; it emphasized it by action when five years later its highest judicial tribunal did not hesitate to declare the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850 "unconstitutional and void." At the momentous election of 1860, Wisconsin threw 56 per cent of its vote in favor of the ticket bearing at its head the name of Abraham Lincoln; nor did the convictions of the state weaken under the grim test of war. In 1864, when Wisconsin had sent into the field over 90,000 enlisted men to maintain the Union, and to make effective the most extreme doctrine of war powers under the constitution,—even then, in the fourth year of severest stress, Wisconsin again threw 55 per cent of its popular vote for the reelection of Lincoln. A year later the struggle ended. Throughout, Wisconsin never faltered.

Of the record made by Wisconsin in the Civil War, I am not here to speak. That field has been sufficiently covered, and covered by those far better qualified for the task than I. I will only say, in often quoted words, that none then died more freely or in greater glory than those Wisconsin sent into the field, though then many died, and there was much glory. When figures so speak, comment weakens. Look at the record:—Fifty-seven regiments and thirteen batteries in the field; a death list exceeding 12,000; a Wisconsin regiment (2d) first in that roll of honor which tells off the regiments of the Union which suffered most, and two other Wisconsin regiments (7th and 26th), together, fifth; while a brigade, made up three quarters of Wisconsin

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battalions, shows the heaviest aggregate loss sustained during the war by any similar command, and is hence known in the history of the struggle as the "Iron Brigade." Thirteen Wisconsin regiments participated in Grant's brilliant movement on Vicksburg; five were with Thomas at Chickamauga; seven with Sherman at Mission Ridge; and, finally, eleven marched with him to the sea, while four remained behind to strike with Thomas at Nashville. Thus it may truly be said that wherever, between the 13th of April, 1861, and the 26th of April, 1865, death was reaping its heaviest harvest,—whether in Pennsylvania, in Virginia, in Tennessee, in Mississippi, in Georgia,—at Shiloh, at Corinth, at Antietam, at Gettysburg, in the salient at Spottsylvania, in the death-trap at Petersburg, or in the Peninsula slaughter-pen,—wherever during those awful years the dead lay thickest, there the men from Wisconsin were freely laying down their lives.

But, as I said, to set forth here your sacrifices in the contest of 1861-65 is not my purpose now. What I have undertaken to do is to assign to Wisconsin its proper and relative place as a factor in one of the great evolutionary movements of man. As the twig was bent the tree inclined. The sacrifices of Wisconsin life and treasure between 1861 and 1865 were but the fulfilment of the promise given by Wisconsin in 1848. The state, it is true, at no time during that momentous struggle rose to a position of unchallenged leadership either in the field or the council chamber. Among its representatives it did not number a Lincoln or a Sherman; but it did supply in marked degree that greatest and most necessary of all essentials in every evolutionary crisis, a well-developed and thoroughly distributed popular backbone.

This racial characteristic, also, I take to be the one great essential to the success of our American experiment. In every emergency which arises there is always the cry raised for a strong hand at the helm,—the ship of state is invariably declared to be hopelessly drifting. But it is in just those times of crisis that a widely diffused individuality proves the greatest possible safeguard,—the only reliable public safeguard. It is then with the state as it is with a strong, seaworthy ship manned by a hardy and experienced crew, in no way dependent on the one pilot who may chance to be at the wheel. In any stress of storm, the ship's company will prove equal to the occasion, and somehow provide for its own salvation. Under similar political conditions, a community asserts, in the long run, its superiority to the accidents of fortune,—the aberrations due to the influence of individual genius, those winning numbers in the lottery of fate,—and evinces that staying power which, no less now and here than in Rome and Great Britain, is the only safe rock of empire. The race thus educated and endowed is the masterful race,—the master of its own destiny, it is master of the destiny of others; and of that crowning republican quality, Wisconsin, during our period of national trial, showed herself markedly possessed. While individuals were not exceptional, the average was unmistakably high.

And this I hold to be the highest tribute which can be paid to a political community. It implies all else. Unless I greatly err, this characteristic has, in the case of Wisconsin, a profound and scientific significance of the most far-reaching character; and so I find myself brought back to my text. As I have already more than once said, others are in every way better qualified than I to speak intelligently of the Wisconsin stock,—of the elements which enter into the brain and bone and sinew of the race now holding as its abiding-place and breeding-ground the region lying between Lake Michigan and the waters of the upper Mississippi,—between the state of Illinois on the south and Lake Superior on the north. I speak chiefly from impression, and always subject to correction; but my understanding is that this region was in the main peopled by men and women representing in their persons what there was of the more enter-



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prising, adventurous, and energetic of three of the most thoroughly virile and, withal, moral and intellectual branches of the human family,—I refer to the Anglo-Saxon of New England descent, and to the Teutonic and the Scandinavian families. Tough of fibre and tenacious of principle, the mixed descendants from those races were well calculated to illustrate the operation of a natural law; and I have quite failed in my purpose if I have not improved this occasion to point out how in the outset of their political life as a community they illustrated the force of Stoughton's utterance and the truth of Darwin's remarkable generalization. By their attitude and action, at once intelligent and decided, they left their imprint on that particular phase of human evolution which then presented itself. They, in so doing, assigned to Wisconsin its special place and work in the great scheme of development and forecast its mission in the future.

I have propounded an historical theory; it is for others, better advised, having passed upon it, to confirm or reject.

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There are many other topics which might here and now be discussed, perhaps advantageously,—topics closely connected with this edifice and with the occasion,—topics relating to libraries, the accumulation of historical material, and methods of work in connection with it; but space and time alike forbid. A selection must be made; and, in making my selection, I go back to the fact that representing one historical society, I am here at the behest of another historical society; and matters relating to what we call "history" are, therefore, those most germane to the day. Coming, then, here from the East to a point which, in the great future of our American development,—a century, or, perchance, two or three centuries hence,—may not unreasonably look forward to being the seat of other methods and a higher learning, I propose to pass over the more obvious and, possibly, the more useful, even if more modest, subjects of discussion, and to try my hand at one which, even if it challenges controversy, is indisputably suggestive. I refer to certain of the more marked of those tendencies which characterize the historical work of the day. Having dealt with the sifted grain, I naturally come to speak of those who have told the tale of the sifting. Looking back, from the standpoint of 1900, over the harvested sheaves which stud the fields we have traversed, the retrospect is not to me altogether satisfactory. In fact, taken as a whole, our histories—I speak of those written by the dead only—have not, I submit, so far as we are concerned, fully met the requirements of time and place. Literary masterpieces, scientific treatises, philosophical disquisitions, sometimes one element predominates, sometimes another; but in them all, something is wanting. That something I take to be a fully developed, as well as nicely balanced, sense of what I will describe as the *historico-literary* form.

In dealing with this subject, I am well aware my criticism might take a wider range. I need not confine myself to history, inasmuch as, in the matter of literary sense, the shortcomings, or the excesses rather, of the American writer, are manifest. In the Greek, and in the Greek alone, this sense seems to have been instinctive. He revealed it, and he revealed it at once, in poetry, in architecture, and in art, as he revealed it in the composition of history. Of Homer we cannot speak; but Herodotus and Phidias died within six years of each other, each a father in his calling. With us Americans that intuitive literary sense, resulting in the perfection of literary form, seems not less noticeable for its absence than among the Greeks it was conspicuous for its presence. In literature the American seems to exist in a medium of stenographers and typewriters, and with a public printer at his beck and call. To such a degree is this the case that the expression I have just used—literary form—has, to many, and those not the least

cultured, ceased to carry a meaning. Literary form they take to mean what they know as style; while style is, with them, but another term for word-painting. Accordingly, with altogether too many of our American writers, to be voluminous and verbose is to be great. They would conquer by force of numbers—the number of words they use. I, the other day, chanced across a curious illustration of this in the diary of my father. Returning from his long residence in England at the time of the Civil War, he attended some ceremonies held in Boston in honor of a public character who had died shortly before. "The eulogy," he wrote, "was good but altogether too long. There is in all the American style of composition a tendency to diffuseness, and the repetition of the same ideas, which materially impairs the force of what is said. I see it the more clearly from having been so long out of the atmosphere."

The failing is national; nor in this respect does the American seem to profit by experience. Take, for instance, the most important of our public documents, the inaugurations of our presidents. We are a busy people; yet our newly elected presidents regularly inflict on us compendiums of public information, and this, too, notwithstanding the fact that in the long line of inaugural commonplaces but one utterance stands out in memory, and that one the shortest of all,—the immortal second of Lincoln. Our present chief magistrate found himself unable to do justice to the occasion, in his last annual message, in less than eighteen thousand words; and in the congress to which this message was addressed, two senators, in discussing the "paramount" issue of the day, did so, the one in a speech of sixty-five thousand words; the other in a speech of fifty-five thousand. Webster replied to Hayne in thirty-five thousand; nor did Webster then err on the side of brevity. So in the presidential canvass now in progress. Mr. Bryan accepted his nomination in a comparatively brief speech of nine thousand words; and this speech was followed by a letter of five thousand, covering omissions because of previous brevity. President McKinley, in his turn, then accepted a renomination in a letter of twelve thousand words,—a letter actually terse when compared with his last annual message; but which Mr. Carl Schurz subsequently proceeded to comment on in a vigorous address of fourteen thousand words. Leviathans in language, we Americans, if instructed, need to be Methuselahs in years. It was not always so. The contrast is, indeed, noticeable. Washington's first inaugural numbered twenty-three hundred words. Including that now in progress, my memory covers fourteen presidential canvasses; and by far the most generally applauded and effective letter of acceptance put forth by any candidate during all those canvasses was that of General Grant in 1868. Including address and signature, it was comprised in exactly two hundred and thirty words. With a brevity truly commendable, even if military, he used one word where his civilian successor found occasion for fifty-two. As to the opponent of that civilian successor, he sets computation at defiance. Indeed, speaking of Mr. Bryan purely from the historical standpoint, I seriously doubt whether, in all human experience, any man ever before gave utterance to an equal number of words in the same time.

Leaving illustration, however, and returning to my theme, I will now say that in the whole long and memorable list of distinctively American literary men,—authors, orators, poets, and story-tellers,—I recall but three who seem to me to have been endowed with a sense of form, at once innate and Greek; those three were Daniel Webster, Edgar Allan Poe, and Nathaniel Hawthorne. Yet, unless moulded by that instinctive sense of form, nothing can be permanent in literature any more than in sculpture, in painting, or in architecture. Not size, nor solidity, nor fidelity of work, nor knowledge of detail, will preserve the canvas or the edifice; and this I hold to be just as true of history as of the oration, the poem, or the drama.

Surely, then, our histories need not all, of necessity, be designed for students and scholars exclusively; and yet it is a noteworthy fact that even to-day, after scholars and story-tellers have been steadily at work upon it for nearly a century and a half,—ever since David Hume and Oliver Goldsmith brought forth their classic renderings,—the chief popular knowledge of over three centuries of English history between John Plantagenet (1200) and Elizabeth Tudor (1536) is derived from the pages of Shakespeare. There is also a curious theory now apparently in vogue in our university circles, that, in some inscrutable way, accuracy as to fact and a judicial temperament are inconsistent with a highly developed literary sense. Erudition and fairness are the qualities in vogue, while form and brilliancy are viewed askance. Addressing now an assembly made up, to an unusual extent, of those engaged in the work of instruction in history, I wish to suggest that this marked tendency of the day is in itself a passing fashion, and merely a reactionary movement against the influence of two great literary masters of the last generation, Macaulay and Carlyle. That the reaction had reason, I would by no means deny; but, like most decided reactions, has it not gone too far? Because men weary of brilliant colors, and mere imitators try to wield the master's brush, it by no means follows that art does not find its highest expression in Titian and Tintoretto, Rembrandt, Claude, and Turner. It is the same with history. Profound scholars, patient investigators, men of a judicial turn of mind, subtle philosophers, and accurate annalists empty forth upon a patient, because somewhat indifferent, reading public volume after volume; but the great masters of literary form, in history as in poetry, alone retain their hold. Thucydides, Tacitus, and Gibbon are always there, on a level with the eye; while those of their would-be successors who find themselves unable to tell us what they know, in a way in which we care to hear it, or within limits consistent with human life, are quietly relegated to the oblivion of the topmost shelf.

I fear that I am myself in danger of sinning somewhat flagrantly against the canons I have laid down. Exceeding my allotted space, I am conscious of disregarding any correct rule of form by my attempt at dealing with more subjects than it is possible on one occasion adequately to discuss. None the less I cannot resist the temptation,—I am proving myself an American; and having gone thus far, I will now go on to the end, even though alone. There are, I hold, three elements which enter into the make-up of the ideal historian, whether him of the past or him of the future;—these three are learning, judgment, and the literary sense. A perfect history, like a perfect poem, must have a beginning, a middle, and an end; and the well proportioned parts should be kept in strict subservience to the whole. The dress, also, should be in keeping with the substance; and both subordinated to the conception. Attempting no display of erudition, pass the great historical literatures and names in rapid review, and see in how few instances all these canons were observed. And first, the Hebrew. While the Jew certainly was not endowed with the Greek's sense of form in sculpture, in painting, or in architecture, in poetry and music he was, and has since been, preëminent. His philosophy and his history found their natural expression through his aptitudes. The result illustrates the supreme intellectual power exercised by art. Of learning and judgment there is only pretence; but imagination and power are there; and, even to this day, the Hebrew historical writings are a distinct literature,—we call them "The Sacred Books." We have passed from under that superstition; and yet it still holds a traditional sway. The books of Moses are merely a first tentative effort on the road subsequently trodden by Herodotus, Livy, and Voltaire; but their author was so instinct with imagination and such a master of form, that to this day his narrative is read and accepted as history by more human beings than are all the other historical works in existence combined in one mass. No scholar or man of reflection now believes that Moses,

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or whoever enriched the human race with what are known as the books of Moses, was any more inspired than Homer or the Homeridae, Julius Caesar, or Thomas Carlyle; but the imagination and intellectual force of the author, be he poet or prophet, combined with his instinct for literary form, sufficed to secure for what he wrote a unique mastery only in our day shaken.<sup>1</sup>

The Greek follows hard upon the Jew; and of the Greek I have already said enough. He had a natural sense of art in all its shapes; and, when it came to writing history, Herodotus, Thucydides, and Xenophon seemed mere evolutions. Of the three, Thucydides alone combined in perfection the qualities of erudition, judgment, and form; but to the last-named element, their literary form, it is that all three owe their immortality.

It is the same with the Romans,—Livy, Sallust, Tacitus. The Roman had not that artistic instinct so noticeable in the Greek. He was, on the contrary, essentially a soldier, a ruler, and organizer; and a literary imitator. Yet now and again even in art he attained a proficiency which challenged his models. Cicero has held his own with Demosthenes; and Virgil, Horace, and Juvenal survive, each through a mastery of form. Tacitus, it is needless to say, is the Latin Thucydides. In him again, five centuries after Thucydides, the three essentials are combined in the highest degree. The orbs of the great historical constellation are wide apart,—the interval that divided Tacitus from Thucydides is the same as that which divided Matthew Paris from Edward Gibbon;—twice that which divides Shakespeare from Tennyson.

Coming rapidly down to modern times, of the three great languages fruitful in historical work,—the French, English, and German,—those writing in the first have alone approached the aptitude for form natural to the Greeks; but in Gibbon only of those who have, in the three tongues, devoted themselves to historical work, were all the cardinal elements of historical greatness found united in such a degree as to command general assent to his preëminence. The Germans are remarkable for erudition, and have won respect for their judgment; but their disregard of form has been innate,—indicative either of a lack of perception or of contempt.<sup>2</sup> Their work accordingly will hardly prove enduring. The French, from Voltaire down, have cyned a keener perception of form, nor have they been lacking in erudition. Critical and quick to perceive, they have still failed in any one instance to combine the three great attributes each in its highest degree. Accordingly in the historical firmament they count no star of the first magnitude. Their lights have been meteoric rather than permanent.

In the case of Great Britain it is interesting to follow the familiar names, noting the short-coming of each. The roll scarcely extends beyond the century,—Hume, Robertson, and Gibbon constituting the solitary remembered exceptions. Of Gibbon, I have already spoken. He combined in highest degree all the elements of the historian,—in as great a degree as Thucydides or Tacitus. He was an orb of the first order; and it was his misfortune that he was born and wrote before Darwin gave to history unity and a scheme. Hume was a subtle philosopher, and his instinctive mastery of form has alone caused his history to survive. He was not an investigator in the modern sense of the term, nor was he gifted with an intuitive historical instinct. Robertson had fair judgment and a well-developed, though in no way remarkable, sense of form; but he lacked erudition, and, as compared with Gibbon, for example, was con-

<sup>1</sup> See Appendix C.

<sup>2</sup> "Not only does a German writer possess, as a rule, a full measure of the patient industry which is required for thinking everything that may be thought about his theme, and knowing what others have thought; he alone, it seems, when he comes to write a book about it, is imbued with the belief that that book ought necessarily to be a complete compendium of everything that has been so thought, whether by himself or others."—*The Athenaeum*, September 8, 1900, p. 303.

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tent to accept his knowledge at second hand. Telling his story well, he was never master of his subject.

Coming down to our own century, and speaking only of the dead, a series of familiar names at once suggest themselves,—Mitford, Grote, and Thirlwall; Arnold and Merivale; Milman, Lingard, Hallam, Macaulay, Carlyle, Buckle, Froude, Freeman, and Green,—naming only the more conspicuous. Mitford was no historian at all. Merely an historical pamphleteer, his judgment was inferior even to his erudition, and he had no sense of form. Grote was erudite, but he wrote in accordance with his political affinities, and what is called the spirit of the time and place; and that time and place were not Greece, nor the third and fourth centuries before Christ. He had, moreover, no sense of literary form, for he put what he knew into twelve volumes, when human patience did not suffice for six. Thirlwall was erudite in a way, and a thinker and writer of unquestionable force; but his work on Greece was written to order, and is what is known as a “standard history.” Correct, but devoid of inspiration, it is slightly suggestive of a second-class epic. Arnold is typical of scholarship and insight; his judgment is excellent; but of literary art, so conspicuous in his son, there is no trace. Merivale is scholarly and academic. Milman was hampered by his church training, which fettered his judgment; learned, as learning went in those days, there is in his writings nothing that would attract readers or students of a period later than his own. Lingard was another church historian. A correct writer, he tells England’s story from the point of view of Rome. Hallam is deeply read and judicial; but the literary sense is conspicuously absent. His volumes, already superseded, are well-nigh unreadable. Freeman is the typical modern historian of the original-material-and-monograph school. He writes irrespective of readers. Learned beyond compare, he cumbers the shelves of our libraries with an accumulation of volumes which are not literature.

Of Henry Thomas Buckle and of John Richard Green I will speak together, and with respectful admiration. Both were prematurely cut off, almost in what with historical writers is the period of promise; for, while Green at the time of his death was forty-seven, Buckle was not yet forty-one. What they did, therefore,—and they both did much,—was indicative only of what they might have done. Judged by that,—*ex pecte Herculem*,—I hold that they come nearer to the ideal of what a twentieth-century historian should be than any other writers in our modern English tongue. That Buckle was crude, impulsive, hasty in generalization, and paradoxical in judgment is not to be gainsaid;—but he wrote before Darwin; and, when he published his history, he was but thirty-six. What might he not have become had he been favored with health, and lived to sixty? Very different in organization, he and Green alike possessed in high degree the spirit of investigation and the historical insight, combined with a well-developed literary sense. Men of untiring research, they had the faculty of expression. Artists as well as scholars, they inspired. Their early death was, in my judgment, an irreparable loss to English historical lore and the best historical treatment.

I come now to Macaulay, Carlyle, and Froude, the three literary masters of the century who have dealt with history in the English tongue; and I shall treat of them briefly, and in the inverse order. Froude is redeemed by a sense of literary form; as an historian he was learned, but inaccurate, and his judgment was fatally defective. He was essentially an artist. Carlyle was a poet rather than an historian. A student, with the insight of a seer and a prophet’s voice, his judgment was fatally biased. A wonderful master of form, his writings will endure; but rather as epics in prose than as historical monuments. Macaulay came, in my judgment, nearer than any other English writer of the century to the great historical stat-

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ure; but he failed to attain it. The cause of his failure is an instructive as well as an interesting study.

Thomas Babington Macaulay is unquestionably the most popular historian that ever wrote. His history, when it appeared, was the literary sensation of the day, and its circulation increased with each succeeding volume. Among historical works, it alone has in its vogue thrown into the shade the most successful novels of the century,—those of Scott, Thackeray, and Dickens, *Jane Eyre*, *Robert Elsmere*, and even *Richard Carvel*, the last ephemeral sensation; but, of the three great attributes of the historian, Macaulay was endowed with only one. He was a man of vast erudition; and, moreover, he was gifted with a phenomenal memory, which seemed to put at his immediate disposal the entire accumulation of his omnivorous reading. His judgment was, however, defective; for he was, from the very ardor of his nature,<sup>1</sup> more or less of a partisan, while the wealth of his imagination and the exuberance of his rhetoric were fatal to his sense of form. He was incomparably the greatest of historical racconteurs, but the fascination of the story overcame his sense of proportion, and he was buried under his own riches. For, as I have already intimated, it is a great mistake to suppose, as so many do, that what is called style, no matter how brilliant, or how correct and clear, constitutes in itself literary form; it is a large and indispensable element in literary form, but neither the whole, nor indeed the greatest part of it. The entire scheme, the proportion of the several parts to the whole and to each other, the grouping and the presentation, the background and the accessories, constitute literary form; the style of the author is merely the drapery of presentation. Here was where Macaulay failed; and he failed on a point which the average historical writer, and the average historical instructor still more, does not as a rule even take into consideration. Macaulay's general conception of his scheme was so imperfect as to be practically impossible; and this he himself, when too late, sadly recognized. His interest in his subject and the warmth of his imagination swept him away,—they were too strong for his sense of proportion. Take, for instance, two such wonderful bits as his account of the trial of the seven bishops, and his narrative of the siege of Londonderry. They are masterpieces; but they should be monographs. They are in their imagery and detail out of all proportion to any general historical plan. They imply a whole which would be in itself an historical library rather than a history. On the matter of judgment it is not necessary to dwell. Macaulay's work is unquestionably history, and history on a panoramic scale; but the pigments he used are indisputably Whig. Yet his method was instinctively correct. He had his models and his scheme,—he made his preliminary studies,—he saw his subject as a whole, and in its several parts; but he labored under two disadvantages:—In the first place, like Gibbon, he was born and wrote before the discoveries of Darwin had given its whole great unity to history; and, in the second place, he had not thought his plan fully out, subordinating severely to it both his imagination and his rhetoric. Accordingly, so far as literary form was concerned, his history, which in that respect above all should, with his classic training, have been an entire and perfect chrysolite, was in fact a monumental failure. It was not even a whole; it was only a fragment.

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<sup>1</sup>... It is well to realize that this greatest history of modern times was written by one in whom a distrust in enthusiasm was deeply rooted. This cynicism was not inconsistent with partiality, with definite prepossessions, with a certain spite. The conviction that enthusiasm is inconsistent with intellectual balance was engrained in his mental constitution, and confirmed by study and experience. It might be reasonably maintained that zeal for men or causes is an historian's undoing, and that 'reserve sympathy'—the principle of Thucydides—is the first lesson he has to learn."—J. B. Bury, *Introduction to his edition* (1896) of Gibbon, vol. i, pp. lxvii, lxviii.

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Coming now to our own American experience and still speaking exclusively of the writings of the dead, it is not unsafe to say that there is as yet no American historical work which can call even for mention among those of the first class. The list can speedily be passed in review,—Marshall, Irving, Prescott, Hildreth, Bancroft, Motley, Palfrey, and Parkman. Except those yet living, I do not recall any others who would challenge consideration. That Marshall was endowed with a calm, clear judgment, no reader of his judicial opinions would deny; but he had no other attribute of an historian. He certainly was not historically learned, and there is no evidence that he was gifted with any sense of literary proportion. Irving was a born man of letters. With a charming style and a keen sense of humor, he was as an historical writer defective in judgment. Not a profound or accurate investigator, as became apparent in his *Columbus* and his *Washington*, his excellent natural literary sense was but partially developed. Perhaps he was born before his time; perhaps his education did not lead him to the study of the best models; but, however it came about, he failed, and failed indisputably, in form. Prescott was a species of historical pioneer,—an adventurer in a new field of research and of letters. Not only was he, like Macaulay and the rest, born before Darwin and the other great scientific lights of the century had assigned to human history its unity, limits, and significance, but Prescott was not a profound scholar, nor yet a thorough investigator; his judgment was by no means either incisive or robust, and his style was elegant, as the phrase goes, rather than tersely vigorous. He wrote, moreover, of that which he never saw, or made himself thoroughly part of even in imagination. Laboring under great disadvantages, his course was infinitely creditable; but his portrait in the gallery of historians is not on the eye line. Of Hildreth, it is hardly necessary to speak. Laborious and persevering, his investigation was not thorough; indeed he had not taken in the fundamental conditions of modern historical research. With a fatally defective judgment, he did not know what form was.

George Bancroft was in certain ways unique, and, among writers and students, his name cannot be mentioned without respect. He was by nature an investigator. His learning and philosophy cannot be called sound, and his earlier manner was something to be forever avoided; but he was indefatigable as a collector, and his patience knew no bounds. He devoted his life to his subject; and his life came to a close while he was still dwelling on the preliminaries to his theme. A partisan, and writing in support of a preconceived theory, his judgment was necessarily biased; while, as respects literary form, though he always tended to what was better, he never even approximately reached what is best. He, too, like Macaulay, failed to grasp the wide and fundamental distinction between a proportioned and complete history and a thorough historical monograph. His monumental work, therefore, is neither the one nor the other. As a collection of monographs, it is too condensed and imperfect; as a history, it is cumbersome and enters into unnecessary detail.

From a literary point of view, Motley is unquestionably the most brilliant of American historical writers. He reminds the reader of Froude. Not naturally a patient or profound investigator, he yet forced himself to make a thorough study of his great subject, and he was gifted with a remarkable descriptive power. A man of intense personality, he was, however, defective in judgment, if not devoid of the faculty. He lacked calmness and method. He could describe a siege or a battle with a vividness which, while it revealed the master, revealed also the historian's limitations. With a distinct sense of literary form, he was unable to resist the temptations of imagination and sympathy. His taste was not severe; his temper the reverse of serene. His defects as an historian are consequently as apparent as are his merits as a writer.



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Of Palfrey, the historian, I would speak with the deep personal respect I entertained for the man. A typical New Englander, a victim almost of that "terrible New England conscience," he wrote the history of New England. A scholar in his way, and the most patient of investigators, he had, as an historian, been brought up in a radically wrong school, that of New England theology. There was in him not a trace of the skeptic; not a suggestion of the humorist or easy-going philosopher. He wrote of New England from the inside, and in close sympathy with it. Thus, as respects learning, care, and accuracy, he was in no way deficient, while he was painstaking and conscientious in extreme. His training and mental characteristics, however, impaired his judgment, and he was quite devoid of any sense of form. The investigator will always have recourse to his work; but, as a guide, its value will pass away with the traditions of the New England theological period. From the literary point of view the absence of all idea of proportion renders the bulk of what he wrote impossible for the reader.

Of those I have mentioned, Parkman alone remains; perhaps the most individual of all our American historians, the one tasting most racyly of the *soil*. Parkman did what Prescott failed to do, what it was not in Prescott ever to do. He wrote from the basis of a personal knowledge of the localities in which what he had to narrate occurred, and the characteristics of those with whom he undertook to deal. To his theme he devoted his entire life, working under difficulties even greater than those which so cruelly hampered Prescott. His patience under suffering was infinite; his research was indefatigable. In this respect, he left nothing to be desired. While his historical judgment was better than his literary taste, his appreciation of form was radically defective. Indeed he seemed almost devoid of any true sense of proportion. The result is that he has left behind him a succession of monographs, of more or less historical value or literary interest, but no complete, thoroughly designed and carefully proportioned historical unit. Like all the others, his work lacks form and finish.

The historical writers of more than an hundred years have thus been passed in hasty review, nor has any nineteenth century compeer of Thucydides, Tacitus, and Gibbon been found among those who have expressed themselves in the English tongue. Nor do I think that any such could be found in other tongues; unless, perchance, among the Germans, Theodor Mommsen might challenge consideration. Of Mommsen's learning there can be no question. I do not think there can be much of his insight and judgment. The sole question would be as to his literary form; nor, in that respect, judging by the recollection of thirty years, do I think that, so far as his history of Rome is concerned, judgment can be lightly passed against him. But, on this point, the verdict of time only is final. Before that verdict is in his case rendered, another half century of probation must elapse.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> C'est sous ces deux aspects — qu'il sont en réalité les deux faces de l'esprit de Mommsen, le savant et le politique — qu'il convient d'étudier cet ouvrage.

"Dans l'exposé scientifique de l'*Histoire romaine* on ne sait ce qu'on doit le plus admirer, ou de la science colossale de l'auteur ou de l'art avec laquelle elle est mise en œuvre.

"C'était une entreprise colossale que celle de résumer tous les travaux sur la matière depuis Niebuhr. Mommsen lui-même avait contribué à ce travail par la quantité fabuleuse de mémoires qu'il avait écrits sur les points les plus spéciaux du droit romain, de l'archéologie ou de l'histoire. Or tout cela est assimilé d'une manière merveilleuse dans une narration historique qui est un des chefs-d'œuvre de l'historiographie. L'histoire romaine est une œuvre extraordinaire dans sa condensation, comme il n'en existe nulle autre au monde, enfermant dans des dimensions si restreintes (3 volumes in 8°) tant de choses et de si bonnes choses. Mommsen raconte d'une manière si attrayante que dès les premières lignes vous êtes entraîné. Ses grands tableaux sur les premières migrations des peuples en Italie, sur les débuts de Rome, sur les Etrusques, sur la domination des Hellènes en Italie; ses chapitres sur les institutions, romaines, le droit,

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There is still something to be taken into consideration. I have as yet dealt only with the writers; the readers remain. During the century now ending, what changes have here come about? For one, I frankly confess myself a strong advocate of what is sometimes rather contemptuously referred to as the popularization of history. I have but a limited sympathy with those who, from the etherealized atmosphere of the cloister, whether monkish or collegiate, seek truth's essence and pure learning only, regardless of utility, of sympathy, or of applause. The great historical writer, fully to accomplish his mission, must, I hold, be in very close touch with the generation he addresses. In other words, to do its most useful work, historical thought must be made to permeate what we are pleased to call the mass; it must be infiltrated through that great body of the community which, moving slowly and subject to all sorts of influences, in the end shapes national destinies. The true historian,—he who most sympathetically, as well as correctly, reads to the present the lessons to be derived from the experience of the past,—I hold to be the only latter-day prophet. That man has a message to deliver; but, to deliver it effectively, he must, like every successful preacher, understand his audience; and, to understand it, he must either be instinctively in sympathy with it, or he must have made a study of it. Of those instinctively in sympathy, I do not speak. That constitutes genius, and genius is a law unto itself; but I do maintain that instructors in history and historical writers who ignore the prevailing literary and educational conditions, therein make a great mistake. He fails fatally who fails to conform to his environment; and this is no less true of the historian than of the novelist or politician.

In other words, what have we to say of those who read? What do we know of them? Not much, I fancy. In spite of our public libraries, and in spite of the immensely increased diffusion of printed matter through the agency of those libraries and of the press, what those who compose the great mass of the community are reading, what enters into their intellectual nutriment, and thence passes into the secretions of the body politic,—this, I imagine, is a subject chiefly of surmise. The field is one upon which I do not now propose to enter. Too large, it is also a pathless wilderness. I would, however, earnestly commend it to some more competent treatment at an early convention of librarians or publishers. To-day we must confine ourselves to history. For what, in the way of history, is the demand? Who are at present the popular historical writers? How can the lessons of the past be most readily and most effectually brought home to the mind and thoughts of the great reading public, vastly greater and more intelligent now than ever before?

This is something upon which the census throws no light. There is a widespread impression among those more or less qualified to form an opinion, that the general capacity for sustained reading and thinking has not increased or been strengthened with the passage of the years. On the contrary, the indications, it is currently supposed, are rather of emasculation. Everything must now be made easy and short. There is a constant demand felt, especially by our periodical press, for information on all sorts of subjects,—historical, philosophical, scientific;

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la religion, l'armée et l'art; sur la vie économique, l'agriculture, l'industrie et le commerce; sur le développement intérieur de la politique romaine; sur les Celtes et sur Carthage; sur les péripéties de la Révolution romaine depuis les Græques à Jules César; sur l'Orient grec, la Macédoine; sur la soumission de la Gaule; tout cela forme un ensemble admirable.

“Comme peintre de grands tableaux historiques, je ne vois parmi les historiens contemporains qu'un homme qui puisse être comparé à Mommsen, c'est Ernest Renan: c'est la même touche large, le même sens des proportions, le même art de faire voir et de faire comprendre, de rendre vivantes les choses par les détails typiques qui se gravent pour toujours dans la mémoire.”—Guilland, *L'Allemagne Nouvelle et ses Historiens* (1900), pp. 121, 122.

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but it must be set forth in what is known as a popular style, that is introduced into the reader in a species of sugared capsule, and without leaving any annoying taste on the intellectual palate. The average reader, it is said, wants to know something concerning all the topics of the day; but, while it is highly desirable he should be gratified in this laudable, though languid, craving, he must not be fatigued in the effort of acquisition, and he will not submit to be bored. It is then further argued that this was not the case formerly; that in what are commonly alluded to as "the good old times,"—always the times of the grandparents,—people had fewer books, and fewer people read; but those who did read, deferred neither by number of pages nor by dryness of treatment, were equal to the feat of reading. To-day, on the contrary, almost no one rises to more than a magazine article; a volume appalls.

This is an extremely interesting subject of inquiry, were the real facts only attainable. Unfortunately they are not. We are forced to deal with impressions; and impressions, always vague, are usually deceptive. At the same time, when glimpses of a more or less remote past do now and again reach us, they seem to indicate mental conditions calculated to excite our special wonder. We do know, for instance, that in the olden days,—before public libraries and periodicals, and the modern cheap press, and the Sunday newspaper were devised,—when books were rarities, and reading a somewhat rare accomplishment,—the Bible, Shakespeare, *Paradise Lost*, the *Pilgrim's Progress*, and *Robinson Crusoe*, the *Spectator* and *Tatler*, *Barrows' Sermons*, and *Hume's History of England* were the standard household and family literature; and the Bible was read and re-read until its slightest allusions passed into familiar speech. Indeed, the Bible, in King James' version, may be said to have been for the great mass of the community,—those who now have recourse to the Sunday paper,—the sum and substance of English literature. In this respect it is fairly open to question whether the course of evolution has tended altogether toward improvement. Now and again, however, we get one of these retrospective glimpses which is simply bewildering; and, while indulging in it, one cannot help pondering over the mental conditions which once apparently prevailed. A question suggests itself, were there giants in those days?—or did the reader ask for bread, and did they give him a stone? We know, for instance, what the public library and circulating library of to-day are. We know to a certain extent, what the reading demand is, and who the popular authors are. We know that, while history must content itself with a poor one in twenty, the call for works of fiction is more than a third of the whole, while nearly eighty per cent of the ordinary circulation is made up of novels, story books for children, and periodicals. It is the lightest form of pabulum. This in 1900. Now, let us get a glimpse of "the good old times."

In the year 1790, a humorous rascal named Burroughs — once widely known as "the notorious Stephen Burroughs" — found himself stranded in a town on Long Island, New York, a refugee from a Massachusetts gaol and whipping post, the penalties incurred in or at both of which he had richly merited. In the place of his refuge, Burroughs served as the village schoolmaster; and, being of an observant turn of mind, he did not fail presently to note that the people of the place were "very illiterate," and almost entirely destitute of books of any kind, "except school-books and bibles." Finding among the younger people of the community many "possessing bright abilities and a strong thirst for information," Burroughs asserts that he bestirred himself to secure the funds necessary to found the nucleus of a public library. Having in a measure succeeded, a meeting of "the proprietors" was called "for the purpose of selecting a catalogue of books;" and presently the different members presented lists "peculiar to their own tastes." Prior to this meeting it had been alleged that the people generally anticipated that the books would be selected by the clergyman of the church, and would "consist of books of

divinity, and dry metaphysical writings; whereas, should they be assured that histories and books of information would be procured," they would have felt very differently. And now, when the lists were submitted, "Deacon Hodges brought forward 'Essays on the Divine Authority for Infant Baptism,' 'Terms of Church Communion,' 'The Careful Watchman,' 'Age of Grace,' etc.; Deacon Cook's collection was 'History of Martyrs,' 'Rights of Conscience,' 'Modern Pharisees,' 'Defense of Separates,' Mr. Woolworth exhibited 'Edwards against Chauncy,' 'History of Redemption,' 'Jennings's Views,' etc.; Judge Hurlbut concurred in the same; Dr. Rose exhibited 'Gay's Fables,' 'Pleasing Companion,' 'Turkish Spy,' while 1," wrote Burroughs, "for the third time recommended 'Hume's History,' 'Voltaire's Histories,' 'Rollin's Ancient History,' 'Plutarch's Lives,' etc."

It would be difficult to mark more strikingly the development of a century, than by thus presenting Hume's History and Rollin as typical of what was deemed light and popular reading at one end of it, and the Sunday newspaper at the other. As I have already intimated, they were either giants in those days, or husks supplied milk for babes. Recurring, however, to present conditions, the popular demand for historical literature is undoubtedly vastly larger than it was a century ago; nor is it by any means so clear as is usually assumed that the solid reading and thinking power of the community has at all deteriorated. That yet remains to be proved. A century ago, it is to be borne in mind, there were no public libraries at all, and the private collections of books were comparatively few and small. It is safe, probably, to assume that there are a hundred, or even a thousand, readers now to one then. On this head nothing even approximating to what would be deemed conclusive evidence is attainable; but the fair assumption is that, while the light and ephemeral, knowledge-made-easy reading is a development of these latter years, it has in no way displaced the more sustained reading and severe thought of the earlier time. On the contrary, that also has had its share of increase. Take Gibbon, for instance. A few years ago, an acute and popular English critic, in speaking of the newly published "Memoirs" of Gibbon, used this language:—"All readers of the 'Decline and Fall,'—that is to say, all men and women of a sound education," etc. If Mr. Frederic Harrison was correct in his generalization in 1896, certainly more could not have been said in 1796; and, during the intervening hundred years, the class of those who have received "a sound education" has undergone a prodigious increase. Take Harvard College, for instance; in 1796 it graduated thirty-three students, and in 1896 it graduated four hundred and eight,—an increase of more than twelvefold. In 1796, also, there were not a tenth part of the institutions of advanced education in the country which now exist. The statistics of the publishing houses and the shelves of the bookselling establishments all point to the same conclusion. Of course, it does not follow that because a book is bought it is also read; but it is not unsafe to say that twenty copies of Gibbon's "Decline and Fall" are called for in the bookstores of to-day to one that was called for in 1800.

On this subject, however, very instructive light may be derived from another quarter. I refer to the public library. While discussing the question eighteen months ago, I ventured to state that, "in the case of one public library in a considerable Massachusetts city, I had been led to conclude, as the result of examination and somewhat careful inquiry, that the copy of the 'Decline and Fall' on its shelves, had, in over thirty years, not once been consecutively read through by a single individual." I have since made further and more careful inquiry on this point from other, and larger, though similar institutions, and the inference I then drew has been confirmed and generalized. I have also sought information as to the demand for historical literature, and the tendency and character of the reading, so far as it could be ascertained

#### DEDICATION CEREMONIES

or approximately inferred. I have submitted my list of historical writers, and inquired as to the call for them. Suggestive in all respects, the results have, in some, been little less than startling. Take for instance popularity, and let me recur to Macaulay and Carlyle. I have spoken of the two as great masters in historical composition,—comparing them in their field to Turner and Millet in the field of art. Like Turner and Millet, they influenced to a marked extent a whole generation of workers that ensued. To such an extent did they influence it that a scholastic reaction against them set in,—a reaction as distinct as it was strong. Nevertheless, in spite of that reaction, to what extent did the master retain his popular hold? I admit that my astonishment was great when I learned that between 1880, more than twenty years after his death, and 1900, besides innumerable editions issued on both sides of the Atlantic, the authorized London publishers of Macaulay had sold in two shapes only,—and they appear in many other shapes,—80,000 copies of his *History* and 90,000 of his *Miscellanies*. Of Carlyle and the call for his writings I could gather no such specific particulars; but, in reply to my inquiries, I was generally advised that, while the English demand had been large, there was no considerable American publishing house which had not brought out partial or complete editions of his works. They also were referred to as “innumerable.”<sup>1</sup> In other words, when a generation that knew them not had passed away, the works of the two great masters of historical literary form in our day sold beyond all compare with the productions of any of the living writers most in vogue; and this while the professorial dry-as-dust reaction against those masters was in fullest swing.

With a vast amount of material unused,<sup>2</sup> and much still unsaid, I propose, in concluding, to trespass still further on your patience while I draw a lesson to which the first portion of my discourse will contribute not less than the second. A great, as well as a very voluminous, recent historical writer has coined the apothegm,—“History is past politics, and politics are present History.” The proposition tempts discussion. As space and time do not, however, permit of it now and here, I reserve it for some future occasion. Now, I have only to suggest that, however it may have been heretofore, what is known as politics will be but a part, and by no means the most important part, of the history of the future. The historian will look deeper. It was President Lincoln who said in one of the few immortal utterances of the century,—an utterance, be it also observed, limited to two hundred and fifty words,—that this, our, nation was “conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal;” and that it was for us highly to resolve “that government of the people, by the people, for the people, should not perish from the earth.” It was James Russell Lowell, who, when asked in Paris by the historian Guizot many years since, how long the republic of the United States might reasonably be expected to endure, happily replied,—‘So long as the ideas of its founders continue dominant.’ In the first place, I hold it not unsafe to say that, looking into a future not now remote, the mission of the republic and the ideas of the founders will more especially rest in the hands of those agricultural communities of the Northwest, where great aggregations of a civic populace are few, and the principles of natural selection have had the

<sup>1</sup> At least twenty (20) American publishing houses have brought out complete editions of Macaulay, both his *Miscellanies* and the *History of England*. Many of these editions have been expensive, and they seem uniformly to have met with a ready demand. Almost every American publishing house of any note has brought out editions of some of the *Essays*. The same is, to a less extent, true of Carlyle. Seven (7) houses have brought out complete editions of his works; while three (3) others have put on the market imported editions, bearing an American imprint. Separate editions of the more popular of his writings—some cheap, others *de luxe*—have been brought out by nearly every American publishing concern.

<sup>2</sup> See Appendix D.



THE PASSENGER ELEVATOR  
As seen from the first-floor corridor.

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fullest and the freest play in the formation of the race. Such is Wisconsin; such Iowa; such Minnesota. In their hands, and in the hands of communities like them, will rest the ark of our covenant.

In the next place, for the use and future behoof of those communities I hold that the careful and intelligent reading of the historical lessons of the past is all important. Without that reading, and a constant emphasis laid upon its lessons, the nature of that mission and those ideas to which Lincoln and Lowell alluded cannot be kept fresh in mind. This institution I accordingly regard as the most precious of all Wisconsin's endowments of education. It should be the sheet-anchor by which, amid the storms and turbulence of a tempestuous future, the ship of state will be anchored to the firm holding-ground of tradition. It is to further this result that I to-day make appeal to the historian of the future. His, in this community, is a great and important mission; a mission which he will not fulfill unless he be to a large extent freed himself from the trammels of the past, and rises to an equality with the occasion. He must be a prophet and a poet, as well as an investigator and an amalist. He must cut loose from many of the models and most of the precedents of the immediate past, and the educational precepts now so commonly in vogue. He must perplex the modern college professor by asserting that soundness is not always and of necessity dull, and that even intellectual sobriety may be carried to an excess. Not only is it possible for a writer to combine learning and accuracy with vivacity, but to be read and to be popular should not in the eyes of the judicious be a species of stigma. Historical research may, on the other hand, result in a mere lumber of learning; and, even in the portrayal of the sequence of events, it is to a man's credit that he should strive to see things from the point of view of an artist, rather than, looking with the dull eye of a mechanic, seek to measure them with the mechanic's twelve-inch rule. I confess myself weary of those reactionary influences amid which of late we have lived. I distinctly look back with regret to that more spiritual and more confident time when we of the generation now passing from the stage drew our inspiration from prophets, and not from laboratories. So to-day I make bold to maintain that the greatest benefactor America could have—far more immediately influential than any possible president or senator or peripatetic political practitioner, as well as infinitely more so in a remote future—would be some historical writer, occupying perhaps a chair here at Madison, who would in speech and book explain and expound, as they could be explained and expounded, the lessons of American history and the fundamental principles of American historical faith.

It was Macaulay who made his boast that, disregarding the traditions which constituted what he contemptuously termed "the dignity of history," he would set forth England's story in so attractive a form that his volumes should displace the last novel from the work-table of the London society girl. And he did it. It is but the other day that an American naval officer suddenly appeared in the field of historical literature, and, by two volumes, sensibly modified the policy of nations. Here are precept and example. To accomplish similar results should, I hold, be the ambition of the American historian. Popularity he should court as a necessary means to an end; and that he should attain popularity, he must study the art of presentation as much and as thoughtfully as he delves amid the original material of history. Becoming more of an artist, rhetorician, and philosopher than he now is, he must be less of a pedant and colorless investigator. In a word, going back to Moses, Thucydides, and Herodotus; Tacitus, Gibbon, and Voltaire; Niebuhr, Macaulay, Carlyle, Buckle, Green, Mommsen, and Froude, he must study their systems, and, avoiding the mistakes into which they fell, thoughtfully accommodating himself to the conditions of the present, he must prepare to fulfill the mission before

*WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY BUILDING*

him. He will then in time devise what is so greatly needed for our political life, the distinctively American historical method of the future. Of this we have as yet had hardly the promise, and that only recently through the pages of Fiske and Mahan; and I cannot help surmising that it is to some Eastern seed planted here in the freer environment of the more fruitful West that we must look for its ultimate realization.



A WINTER SCENE

Looking north, along east terrace. The columns are surmounted by electric lanterns.

APPENDIX.

A.

The fact that the southern portion of the state of Wisconsin was formerly, in a certain sense at least, a portion of Massachusetts, is, even historically, more curious than interesting or valuable. In regard to it the following extracts are from a Report of its Council made to the American Antiquarian Society at Worcester, October 21, 1890,<sup>1</sup> by Samuel A. Green, than whom, on a matter of this sort connected with Massachusetts history, there is no higher living authority:

"The Colonial Charter of Massachusetts Bay, granted by Charles I, under date of March 4, 1628-29, gave to the Governor and other representatives of the Massachusetts Company, on certain conditions, all the territory lying between an easterly and westerly line running three miles north of any part of the Merrimack River, and extending from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific, and a similar parallel line running south of any part of the Charles River."

The exact words of the original instrument, bearing on the matter under discussion, were:—

"All that parte of Newe England in America which lyes and extends betweene a great river there conynge called Monomack river, alias Merrimack river, and a certein other river there called Charles river, being in the bottome of a certeint bay there conyonicall called Massachussets, alias Mattachussets, alias Massatusts bay: . . . And also all those lands and hereditaments whatsoeuer which lye and be within the space of three English myles to the northward of the saide river called Monomack, alias Merrymack, or to the northward of any and every parte thereof, and all landes and hereditaments whatsoeuer, lying within the lymits aforesaid, north an l south, in latitud: and breitwd: and in length and longitude, of and within all the breedth aforesaid, throughout the mayne landes there from the Atlantick and westerne sea and ocean on the east parte, to the south sea on the west parte:."

"Without attempting to trace in detail, from the time of the Cabots to the days of the Charter, the continuity of the English title to this transcontinental strip of territory, it is enough to know that the precedents and usages of that period gave to Great Britain in theory at least, undisputed sway over the region, and forged every link in the chain of authority and sovereignty."

"At that time it was supposed that America was a narrow strip of land, perhaps an arm of the continent of Asia,—and that the distance across from ocean to ocean was comparatively short. It was then known that the Isthmus of Darien was narrow, and it was therefore incorrectly presumed that the whole continent also was narrow."

"By later explorations this strip of territory has been lengthened out into a belt three thousand miles long. It crosses a continent, and includes within its limits various large towns of the United States. The cities of Albany, Syracuse, Rochester, Buffalo, Detroit, and Milwaukee all lie within the zone. There have been many social and commercial ties between the capital of New England and these several municipalities, but in comparison with another bond they are of recent date, as the ground on which they stand was granted to the Massachusetts Company by the charter of Charles I, more than two hundred and sixty years ago."

"After the lapse of some years the settlers took steps to find out the territorial boundaries of the Colony on the north in order to establish the limits of their jurisdictional authority. To this end at an early day a Commission was appointed by the General Court, composed of Captain Simon Willard and Captain Edward Johnson, two of the foremost men in the Colony at that time."

"It will be seen that the Commissioners were empowered, under the order, to engage 'such Artists &

<sup>1</sup> *Proceedings* (New Series), vol. vii, pp. 11-32.

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other Assistants' as were needed for the purpose. In early days a surveyor was called an artist, and in old records the word is often found with that meaning. Under the authority thus given, the Commissioners employed Sergeant John Sherman, of Watertown, and Jonathan Ince, of Cambridge, to join the party and do the scientific work of the expedition."

"In October, 1652, the Commissioners made a return to the General Court, giving the result of their labors, and including the affidavits of the two surveyors. According to this report they fixed upon a place then called by the Indians Aquedahitan as the head of the Merrimack river. By due observation they found the latitude of this spot to be  $43^{\circ} 40' 12''$ ; and the northern limit of the patent was three miles north of this point."

An extension of the northern limit thus indicated would, crossing Lake Michigan, run west, from a point about three miles south of Sheboygan, through Fond du Lac, Green Lake and Marquette counties, some six miles north of their southern boundaries, thus bisecting Wisconsin.

B.

The full record of J. Q. Adams's utterances on this most important subject has never been made up. Historically speaking, it is of exceptional significance; and accordingly, for convenience of reference, a partial record is here presented.

In 1836, Mr. Adams represented in congress what was then the Massachusetts "Plymouth" district. In April of that year the issue, which, just twenty-five years later, was to result in overt civil war, was fast assuming shape; for on the 21st of the month, the battle of San Jacinto was fought, resulting immediately in the independence of Texas, and, more remotely, in its annexation to the United States and the consequent war of spoliation (1846-48) with Mexico. At the same time petitions in great number were pouring into congress from the Northern states asking for the abolition of slavery, and the prohibition of the domestic slave trade in the District of Columbia. The admission into the Union of Arkansas, with a constitution recognizing slavery, was also under consideration. In the course of a long personal letter dated April 4, 1836, written to the Hon. Solomon Lincoln, of Hingham, a prominent constituent of his, Mr. Adams made the following incidental reference to the whole subject, indicative of the degree to which the question of martial law as a possible factor in the solution of the problem then occupied his mind:—

"The new pretensions of the slave representation in congress, of a right to refuse to receive petitions, and that congress have no constitutional power to abolish slavery or the slave trade in the District of Columbia forced upon me so much of the discussion as I did take upon me, but in which you are well aware I did not and could not speak a tenth part of my mind. I did not, for example, start the question whether by the law of God and of nature man can hold property, hereditary property in man—I did not start the question whether in the event of a servile insurrection and war, congress would not have complete, unlimited control over the whole subject of slavery even to the emancipation of all the slaves in the state where such insurrection should break out, and for the suppression of which the freemen of Plymouth and Norfolk counties, Massachusetts, should be called by acts of congress to pour out their treasures and to shed their blood. Had I spoken my mind on those two points the sturdiest of the abolitionists would have disavowed the sentiments of their champion."

A little more than seven weeks after thus writing, Mr. Adams made the following entries in his diary:—

*May 25th.*—"At the house, the motion of Robertson, to recommit Pineckney's slavery report, with instructions to report a resolution declaring that congress has no constitutional authority to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia, as an amendment to the motion for printing an extra number of the report, was first considered. Robertson finished his speech which was vehement. . . .

"Immediately after the conclusion of Robertson's speech I addressed the Speaker, but he gave the floor to Owens, of Georgia, one of the signing members of the committee, who moved the previous question, and refused to withdraw it. It was seconded and carried, by yeas and nays. . . .

"The hour of one came, and the order of the day was called—a joint resolution from the senate, authorizing the President to cause rations to be furnished to suffering fugitives from Indian hostilities in Alabama and Georgia. Committee of the whole on the Union, and a debate of five hours, in which I made a speech of about an hour, wherein I opened the whole subject of the Mexican, Indian, negro, and English war."

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It was in the course of this speech that Mr. Adams first enunciated the principle of emancipation through martial law, in force under the constitution in time of war. He did so in the following passage:—

“ Mr. Chairman, are you ready for all these wars? A Mexican war? A war with Great Britain if not with France? A general Indian war? A servile war? And, as an inevitable consequence of them all, a civil war? For it must ultimately terminate in a war of colors as well as of races. And do you imagine that, while with your eyes open you are wilfully kindling, and then closing your eyes and blindly rushing into them; do you imagine that while in the very nature of things, your own Southern and Southwestern states must be the Flanders of these complicated wars, the battlefield on which the last great battle must be fought between slavery and emancipation; do you imagine that your congress will have no constitutional authority to interfere with the institution of slavery *in any way* in the states of this Confederacy? Sir, they must and will interfere with it—perhaps to sustain it by war; perhaps to abolish it by treaties of peace; and they will not only possess the constitutional power so to interfere, but they will be bound in duty to do it by the express provisions of the constitution itself. From the instant that your slave holding states become the theatre of war, civil, servile, or foreign, from that instant the war powers of congress extend to interference with the institution of slavery in every way in which it can be interfered with, from a claim of indemnity for slaves taken or destroyed, to the cession of the state burdened with slavery to a foreign power.”

The following references to this speech are then found in the diary:—

*May 29th.*—“ I was occupied all the leisure of the day and evening in writing out for publication my speech made last Wednesday in the house of representatives—one of the most hazardous that I ever made, and the reception of which, even by the people of my own district and state, is altogether uncertain.”

*June 2d.*—“ My speech on the distribution of rations to the fugitives from Indian hostilities in Alabama and Georgia was published in the National Intelligencer of this morning, and a subscription paper was circulated in the house for printing it in a pamphlet, for which Gales told me there were twenty-five hundred copies ordered. Several members of the house of both parties spoke of it to me, some with strong dissent.”

*June 19th.*—“ My speech on the rations comes back with echoes of thundering vituperation from the South and West, and with one universal shout of applause from the North and East. This is a cause upon which I am entering at the last stage of life, and with the certainty that I cannot advance in it far; my career must close, leaving the cause at the threshold. To open the way for others is all that I can do. The cause is good and great.”

So far as the record goes, the doctrine was not again propounded by Mr. Adams until 1841. On the 7th of June of that year he made a speech in the house of representatives in support of a motion for the repeal of the twenty-first rule of the house, commonly known as “the Atherton Gag.” Of this speech, no report exists, but in the course of it he again enunciated the martial law theory of emancipation. The next day he was followed in debate by C. J. Ingersoll, of Pennsylvania, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, who took occasion to declare that what he had heard the day previous had made his “blood curdle with horror.”—

“ Mr. Adams here rose in explanation, and said he did not say that in the event of a servile war of insurrection of slaves, the constitution of the United States would be at an end. What he did say was this, that in the event of a servile war or insurrection of slaves, if the people of the free states were called upon to suppress the insurrection, and to spend their blood and treasure in putting an end to the war—a war in which the distinguished Virginian, the author of the Declaration of Independence, had said that ‘God has no attribute in favor of the master’—then he would not say that congress might not interfere with the institution of slavery in the states, and that, through the *treaty-making power*, universal emancipation might not be the result.”

The following year the contention was again discussed in the course of the memorable debate on the “Haverhill Petition.” Mr. Adams was then bitterly assailed by Henry A. Wise, of Virginia, and Thomas F. Marshall, of Kentucky. Mr. Adams at the time did not reply to them on this head; but, on the 14th of the following April, occasion offered, and he then once more laid down the law on the subject, as he understood it, and as it was subsequently put in force:—

“ I would leave that institution to the exclusive consideration and management of the states more peculiarly interested in it, just as long as they can keep within their own bounds. So far I admit that congress has no power to meddle with it. As long as they do not step out of their own bounds, and do not put the question to the people of the United States, whose peace, welfare and happiness are all at stake, so long I



THE EAST LOGGIA  
Looking north, towards opening from Periodical Room.

#### DEDICATION CEREMONIES

will agree to leave them to themselves. But when a member from a free state brings forward certain resolutions, for which, instead of reasoning to disprove his positions, you vote a censure upon him, and that without hearing, it is quite another affair. At the time this was done I said that, as far as I could understand the resolutions proposed by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Giddings), there were some of them for which I was ready to vote, and some which I must vote against; and I will now tell this house, my constituents, and the world of mankind, that the resolution against which I should have voted was that in which he declares that what are called the slave states have the exclusive right of consultation on the subject of slavery. For that resolution I never would vote, because I believe that it is not just, and does not contain constitutional doctrine. I believe that so long as the slave states are able to sustain their institutions without going abroad or calling upon other parts of the Union to aid them or act on the subject, so long I will consent never to interfere.

"I have said this, and I repeat it; but if they come to the free states and say to them you must help us to keep down our slaves, you must aid us in an insurrection and a civil war, then I say that with that call comes a full and plenary power to this house and to the senate over the whole subject. It is a war power. I say it is a war power, and when your country is actually in war, whether it be a war of invasion or a war of insurrection, congress has power to carry on the war, and must carry it on according to the laws of war; and by the laws of war an invaded country has all its laws and municipal institutions swept by the board, and martial law takes the place of them. This power in congress has, perhaps, never been called into exercise under the present constitution of the United States. But when the laws of war are in force, what, I ask, is one of those laws? It is this: that when a country is invaded, and two hostile armies are set in martial array, the commanders of both armies have power to emancipate all the slaves in the invaded territory. Nor is this a mere theoretic statement. The history of South America shows that the doctrine has been carried into practical execution within the last thirty years. Slavery was abolished in Colombia, first, by the Spanish General Morillo, and, secondly, by the American General Bolivar. It was abolished by virtue of a military command given at the head of the army, and its abolition continues to be law to this day. It was abolished by the laws of war and not by municipal enactments; the power was exercised by military commanders, under instructions, of course, from their respective governments. And here I recur again to the example of General Jackson. What are you now about in congress? You are passing a grant to refund to General Jackson the amount of a certain fine imposed upon him by a judge under the laws of the state of Louisiana. You are going to refund him the money, with interest; and this you are going to do because the imposition of the fine was unjust. And why was it unjust? Because General Jackson was acting under the laws of war, and because the moment you place a military commander in a district which is the theatre of war, the laws of war apply to that district. . . .

"I might furnish a thousand proofs to show that the pretensions of gentlemen to the sanctity of their municipal institutions under a state of actual invasion and of actual war, whether servile, civil, or foreign, is wholly unfounded, and that the laws of war do, in all such cases, take the precedence. I lay this down as the law of nations. I say that the military authority takes for the time the place of all municipal institutions, and slavery among the rest; and that, under that state of things, so far from its being true that the states where slavery exists have the exclusive management of the subject, not only the President of the United States but the commander of the army has power to order the universal emancipation of the slaves.

"I have given here more in detail a principle which I have asserted on this floor before now, and of which I have no more doubt, than that you, Sir, occupy that chair. I give it in its development, in order that any gentleman from any part of the Union may, if he thinks proper, deny the truth of the position, and may maintain his denial; not by indignation, not by passion and fury, but by sound and sober reasoning from the laws of nations and the laws of war. And if my position can be answered and refuted, I shall receive the refutation with pleasure; I shall be glad to listen to reason, aside, as I say, from indignation and passion. And if, by the force of reasoning, my understanding can be convinced, I here pledge myself to recant what I have asserted.

"Let my position be answered; let me be told, let my constituents be told, the people of my state be told,—a state whose soil tolerates not the foot of a slave,—that they are bound by the constitution to a long and toilsome march under burning summer suns and a deadly Southern clime for the suppression of a servile war; that they are bound to leave their bodies to rot upon the sands of the Carolina, to leave their wives and their children orphans; that those who cannot march are bound to pour out their treasures while their sons or brothers are pouring out their blood to suppress a servile, combined with a civil or a

WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY BUILDING

foreign war, and yet that there exists no power beyond the limits of the slave state where such war is raging to emancipate the slaves. I say, let this be proved—I am open to conviction; but till that conviction comes I put it forth not as a dictate of feeling, but as a settled maxim of the laws of nations, that in such a case the military supersedes the civil power."

The only comment on this utterance made by Mr. Adams in his diary was the following:—"My speech of this day stung the slaveocracy to madness."

Mr. Adams does not seem to have referred to this subject again on the floor of the house of representatives, nor is any allusion to it found in his published utterances. His enunciation of the principle, however, was not forgotten. The Civil War broke out exactly nineteen years from the time (April, 1842) that Mr. Adams delivered in the house of representatives the speech from which the last of the foregoing extracts was taken. During the first year of the war, on the 30th of August, 1861, Major General John C. Fremont, then in command of the Military Department of the West, issued a proclamation in which, among other things, was the following—the slaves "of all persons in the state of Missouri, who shall take up arms against the United States . . . are hereby declared free men." This proclamation, afterwards revoked by President Lincoln, immediately attracted much notice, and was widely discussed. The New York *Tribune*, in its issue of September 1, 1861, contained an editorial entitled "John Quincy Adams on Slavery Emancipation as Affected by War," in which the principles laid down in the speech of 1842 were quoted and applied to the action of General Fremont. The article was very generally reprinted, and the record further examined. Finally Charles Sumner made full use of the material thus collected in a speech delivered before the Republican state convention, at Worcester, Massachusetts, October 1, 1861. (Works, vol. vi, pp. 19-23; also vol. vii, p. 142.) Mr. Sumner then said—"No attempt to answer [Mr. Adams] was ever made. . . . Meanwhile his words have stood as a towering landmark and beacon."

C.

Owing to the hold which the Hebrew theology has obtained on all modern thought, the standards of judgment usually applied to historical characters have not been applied to Moses. He has been treated as exceptional. Meanwhile, judged by those standards, it may not unfairly be questioned whether Moses, after every allowance has been made on mythical and legendary grounds, was not the most many-sided human being of whom we have knowledge. The Pentateuch was unquestionably transmitted for centuries in an unwritten form through a consecrated order, or priesthood, much as the New Testament Gospels seem to have been at a later period. Seven or eight centuries of oral transmission may have elapsed in the one case, as, in the other, close upon two centuries certainly elapsed, before any of the Gospels assumed the shape they have since held, and now have. It was much the same with the poems of Homer; the traveling rhapsodists there doing among the Greeks for three centuries what those of the sacred order did among the Hebrews for twice that period. Nevertheless, the Pentateuch, like Homer and the body of Gospel doctrine, bears the distinct impress of one great creative mind, original and individual. The probabilities are that the emendations, insertions, and amplifications of later times have emasculated rather than improved the original conception. In the case of Moses, therefore, the conclusion is well-nigh irresistible that, in some remote and now largely fabulous past, a man did exist, who put his stamp with unparalleled distinctness on one ancient and semi-barbarous race, and, through it, on all modern and civilized races. This mythical character, moreover, looms up through the pages of the Old Testament with a vivid individuality possessed by almost no historical personage. He seems to have been equally great as a philosopher, a law-giver, a theologian, a poet, a soldier, an executive magistrate, and an historian. Compare him, for instance, with Julius Cesar, also a many-sided man, whose influence on human events is perceptible even to the present time. A consummate military commander and political organizer, Cesar wrote his Commentaries. As a strategist he may have been superior to Moses; and yet it is very questionable whether he ever executed a more brilliant or successful movement than the march out of Egypt or the passage of the Red Sea, as those operations have come down to us. Indeed, all the early campaigns of the Israelites seem to have been uniformly both planned and carried out in a masterly way. On the other hand, as a literary product, the *De Bello Gallico* is in no way comparable to Exodus. As a philosopher, the authority of him who conceived, or at least reduced to form, the Book of Genesis was undisputed until well into the present century, and is even now implicitly accepted by the great mass of those calling themselves Christians. The binding character of the decalogue is recognized, and it lies at the basis of modern legislation. As a poet, Homer

#### DEDICATION CEREMONIES

distinctly pales before the Israelite; while both Dante and Milton drew from him their inspiration. For there is no epic which in sublimity of movement as well as human interest compares with the books of Moses. As a chief magistrate, the Hebrew moulded, or at least left his imprint, on a race which has proved the most marked and persistent in type the earth has yet produced. Jesus Christ was of it. Finally, as an historian, while the learning and judgment of Moses have not stood the test of modern criticism, his narrative was accepted as incontrovertible until within the memory of those now living, and has passed into common speech.

What other man in all recorded history — mythical, legendary, or historically authentic — presents such a singular and varied record?

#### D.

In the address delivered at the opening of the Fenway Building of the Massachusetts Historical Society, in April, 1899, occurred the following: —

"It would be very interesting to know how many young persons now read Gibbon through as he was read by our fathers, or even by ourselves who grew up in 'the fifties.' Accurate information on such a point is not attainable; but in the case of one public library in a considerable Massachusetts city I have been led to conclude, as the result of examination and somewhat careful inquiry, that the copy of the 'Decline and Fall' on its shelves has, in over thirty years, not once been consecutively read through by a single individual. That it is bought as one of those 'books no gentleman's library should be without,' I know, not only from personal acquaintance with many such, but because new editions from time to time appear, and the booksellers always have it 'in stock'; that it is dipped into here and there, and more or less, I do not doubt; but that it is now largely or systematically read by young people of the coming generation, I greatly question."

This passage was at the time remarked upon, and subsequently led to a considerable correspondence. In the course of that correspondence, as occasion offered, I endeavored further to inform myself, through publishers, booksellers, librarians, instructors and students. To reach any really valuable results such an inquiry would, of course, have to cover a broad field and be systematically conducted. This was out of my power. None the less the questions involved are of moment, and a thorough investigation by a competent and unprejudiced person, with abundance of time at his disposal, could hardly fail to be suggestive, and, not improbably, might reveal some quite unexpected conditions, educational as well as popular. While the correspondence carried on by me was desultory, as well as limited, some of the points developed by it are more or less noteworthy and may incite others to a more systematic inquiry. I therefore give space to them.

From publishing firms and booksellers not much of value could be obtained. The former are, not unnaturally, more or less reticent on matters connected with their business; while the booksellers not only run into special lines, but their trade is subject to local conditions. With both, also, the question of copyright has to be taken into consideration. So far as conclusions could be drawn from information derived from these sources, they would seem generally to be that the demand for books of an historical character has increased largely, and is still increasing. But while this is true of both the more expensive and the cheaper editions, there is nothing indicative of a special or disproportionate increase in the case of history as compared with other branches of literature. Among what may be called the standard English and American writers, the demand is for the writings of Gibbon, Macaulay, Carlyle, and Green; and for those of Prescott, Motley, and Fiske. In Boston it seems of late to be somewhat in the following proportions: Green 150, Macaulay 100, Carlyle and Gibbon 75, Prescott 50, Motley 30. Text-books and what may be called ephemeral historical writings are not taken into consideration. Taking the English-speaking public in all parts of the world as a whole, Macaulay and Carlyle would seem to be the two standard historical writers incomparably most in vogue. Even in America there have been numerous editions of the works of both of these writers, while single editions of American works of a similar character have sufficed to meet the demand. For Gibbon alone of the older writers does there seem to be any active demand. One feature in the demand is noticeable. The readers of history seem largely to buy and own the copies they use. The public libraries will alone absorb full editions of any new work; but, of the standard writers, they as a rule buy the better and more expensive impressions, while the great mass of cheap reprints and second-hand copies is absorbed by a vast reading public, which formerly did not exist at all and of which little is now known. Its demand is, however, on the lines indicated.



PERIODICAL ROOM  
Looking south. Through open door, there is a glimpse of General Reading Room beyond.

#### DEDICATION CEREMONIES

The fact just referred to, that what may be termed the sustained readers of history, or those equal to continuous historical reading, prefer to own the copies of the books they read, and to a large extent contrive to do so either through the bargain-stand or the cheap reprint, has a very close bearing on the inferences to be drawn from the statistics and experience of the public libraries. These agencies are all modern, and their influence has not yet had time in which fully to assert itself. A development of the last half century, they are still in the formative, or plastic, state. As regards them, and their influence on the reading of historical works, further inquiry and correspondence have led to a revision of first impressions. As respects historical reading and study now going on, I gravely doubt whether any safe inferences can be drawn from this source. As a rule about five (5) per cent of the books called for at the desks of our public libraries are classified as historical; but, on the other hand, further investigation leads me to infer that those who resort to the public libraries for books of this sort do so as a rule either educationally, that is, in connection with school studies, or they are ephemeral readers. This appears clearly on examination in a public library of almost any historical work in several volumes. The first will almost invariably bear marks of heavy handling, and will probably have been sent to the binder; the succeeding volumes will show fewer and fewer signs of use; while the closing volumes, except the index volume, will be quite fresh. People who read such works through with profit or pleasure probably own them. Observation from the public library point of view is, therefore, on this subject, apt to be deceptive.

For instance, an official of one of the largest and most extensively used public libraries in the country writes me, speaking of Gibbon, "It is my opinion that a fair percentage of those who undertake Gibbon put the job through. You can draw about any inference you please on the relative place Gibbon now holds." Another, almost equally well placed from the same point of observation, has written to me, "There is no doubt that the fact [you observe] as to the condition of the several volumes of Gibbon on the shelves of the public library of Quincy could be verified by observation in this library, and, in all probability, in most other public libraries in this country." My own inference now is that the people who read "The Decline and Fall,"—and they are many,—own it. The copies in the public libraries are used for experimental purposes, or for topical reference.

On the general subject, I find many suggestive paragraphs in my public librarian correspondence. The following for instance:—

"The fact of the matter is that very few people nowadays have the time and patience to read a proflix history through by course, or even to wade through the novels which were constructed with so great elaboration of exciting incident for the edification of our grandfathers. It is our experience that Gibbon and Hallam and Lingard and Hume and Bancroft are never read entire. It may be said that the attempt is seldom if ever made to do so. There is sometimes an effort to master Macaulay, or Carlyle, or Motley, or Prescott; but it is evident that this is too often with flagging interest. The historical writings of Francis Parkman and John Fiske are in great popular demand. These are so broken up into separate topics that the task set before the reader does not appear formidable, and when he has read up on one topic he is quite likely to be lured by the interesting narrative and the fascinating style into a continuance through other works of the same author. Captain Mahan's books are much read, as are also Green's shorter history and McCarthy's 'History of our own Times,' and the recent histories of Scholner and Rhodes."

"Though there is less reading by course of voluminous histories than formerly, the study of history was never more popular. The tendency of the times is toward condensation. We want our facts in a nutshell; we cannot spend time over unimportant details; the historian is expected to separate the chaff from the grain. So we have numerous condensed histories and biographies, some of which are excellent, though some show too clearly the characteristic of having been made-to-order at the expense of the publisher. But the fact that the publishers find them profitable is good evidence that such books are the kind which many persons are buying."

"Much of the historical reading with which we come into contact in this Library is by topic, under the guidance of clubs and instructors, and therefore systematic."

"I don't see how you can hope to induce the average person of moderate intelligence to do more than read the newspapers and a few monthly magazines in these days. History does not come to him any longer through the volume: it comes to him through the morning paper, as it never did before. Historians are still a little too much inclined to write histories in the old style; even John Fiske does, it would seem. Whereas entirely new conditions of life and knowledge would seem to call for a new kind of history; what kind, I cannot tell you."

WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY BUILDING

"I doubt if ten undergraduates at Yale have read Gibbon during the past five years; many, however, have read Carlyle's 'Frederick,' and more his 'French Revolution.'"

"I find myself more and more astonished at the narrowing range of reading. It may be that I don't see the whole thing or that I form wrong estimates, but I am in accord with the more observing of my associates when I tell you that the reading habits of the 'average' reader are not desultory—I wish they were—but sharply defined and within most contracted limits. Let me specify in the matter of United States history. When I was a youngster we used to have large plans for reading Bancroft, or Hildreth, or the biographies of famous Americans. To-day it is noticeable that the generation recently graduated from the public schools seems to have imbibed no general taste for reading—and does not seek to expand its small acquirements beyond a given point. For several years, off and on, I have been the civil service examiner for this library, and I can assert that the only knowledge of American history, or worse, of American historical writings, is confined to the work of one Montgomery, of whom, I dare say, you never heard. Very rarely a young reader knows of Fiske, more rarely of Higginson—once in a while of Barnes, a new name to you, I fancy. But of the important names, simply nothing. What is true in these examination papers, is true also of the people who come to read. They largely confine themselves to this sort of historical reading."

"In the past few years there has also been a gradual restriction of the limits of literary tastes. Children, in our schools, and I suppose the tendency comes from the West, are fed on very limited pap. Longfellow, Whittier, and a few others are the only names known to them—and there seems to be no encouragement of a general taste. So far as we then are able to discern, everything is 'patriotic'—patriotic speeches, poems, history, one might hazard the statement that in the 'nature studies' so popular now—what we used to call 'natural history'—the bugs, beetles, butterflies, and flowers must be patriotic too. This all may seem exaggerated and fanciful, but I assure you that it is not to us. We trace it to a sort of spurious conception of specialization among teachers and especially among school committees. Whatever the cause, I submit to you that it is a depressing fact that children should grow up with a particular knowledge of Longfellow and Mr. Montgomery's history, and not the least acquaintance with the general works of literature and history, at least of America and England. This is one reason why Gibbon is not read more—nobody hears about him to-day—or of Grote, or Mommsen,—though Macaulay still has his readers."

The truth seems to be that, so far as the general public is concerned,—that largest portion of the body politic which is finally influenced by that body's secretions,—no conclusions are reliable the inductions to which do not include the Sunday newspaper and the periodical. These circulate by the million, and are most carefully shaped to meet the demand of the day. They all give much space to historical topics, dealing with them in popular form. Formerly, neither the medium nor the method existed. Their function and influence have never been adequately investigated. As a literature, besides creating a new field of enormous size, the periodical and the Sunday paper have, as leisure reading, largely superseded the Bible, Pilgrim's Progress, Robinson Crusoe, and all literature of that class.

Turning now to the educational institutions,—especially those of the more advanced grade,—and the student class, it would, I think, be found that a great change has taken place in recent years. Not only have new methods been introduced, but a branch of education has been called into being. Formerly,—that is prior to thirty years ago,—history was taught in our colleges merely as a subject concerning the authors and leading facts of which a so-called educated man should have some knowledge; it is now taught as, at once, a science and a philosophy. Approached in this way by a newly created race of instructors, it naturally and almost necessarily runs into vagaries,—what may best be described as educational "fads." The original research, topical, period and realistic methods seem to be those now most in vogue. As intimated in the text, the artistic side is in disrepute, while little or no attention is paid to history as literature. Altogether it is suggestive of a revival on a more scientific basis of Carlyle's Dr. Dryasdust dispensation, and can hardly be considered inspiring. The following extracts from letters I have received throw light on this subject:—

"I have nowadays under my instruction only such seniors and graduates of —— and —— as elect my courses, perhaps sixty or seventy individuals each year. Among these I should suspect that perhaps one in ten might have read Carlyle's 'Revolution.' I should be astonished to find that one in twenty had read even half of Macaulay or Gibbon, or one in fifty Bancroft. As for 'Frederick the Great,' that would be as rarely perused as Augustine's 'City of God.' One in five might know something of Parkman, Fiske, and

#### DEDICATION CEREMONIES

Mahan, on account of their general popularity, however, rather than any stimulus due to college work, Green's book enjoys a greater popularity, I should presume, than any of the others.

"I will venture to add the following reflections in extenuation of what you appear to deem an indication of a reluctance on the part of the present generation to apply themselves patiently to prolonged and serious tasks. It is undoubtedly true that the methods of instruction in our more conspicuous institutions of learning militate against 'the habit of steady, or "course" historical reading,' but I should be very loath to add, as you do, 'and sustained thought,' among our students. There is indeed little encouragement to read long works through, and certainly there is little tendency to extol any writer as a prophet. But it is not impossible that the causes of the discredit into which the older method has fallen may indicate after all increasing insight and discrimination. These causes appear to me to be, first, a growing tendency to a broader and more sympathetic method of dealing with the past. We are no longer chiefly interested in political events, nor are the best writers of to-day guilty of the *Tendenz* so apparent in the partisan treatments of Gibbon, Hume, Prescott, Macaulay, and Motley.

"The broader conception of history leads, secondly, to a topical treatment of the subject; students turn to special rather than general works of reference. An advanced student is taught to turn often to a monograph, or the most recent edition of a technical encyclopædia, rather than to so-called 'standard' general treatments."

"Personally, I feel that we shall be able sometime to combine the advantages both of form and readableness with the requirements of scientific truth and relevancy."

"I should say that the *studious* habit of the men runs rather to topical than to course reading; and that, outside the range of their fixed studies, they take their *pleasure* from poetry and fiction rather than from the historians. I should say that such general historical reading as I remember to have been the delight of my own undergraduate (1875-77) days is now less common than it used to be.

"The tendency is decidedly towards 'other and more recent methods.' Macaulay and Carlyle are too much decried in the classroom. Even Green is looked upon askance as a bit too 'literary,' I suspect; and the men who would be scholars are sternly bidden to the methods of colorless investigators. Let us pray that we shall some day come to a sane balance in these matters, and not start young historians copying false standards of either extreme."

"I am nearly certain that the average undergraduate who has anything to do with historical electives in the most important colleges now reads in a year more history than did the average undergraduate of a generation ago. But the methods of instruction now employed make it likely that he reads chapters or portions of books, reads with a view to getting various lights upon particular transactions or episodes of history, rather than to read consecutively through works comprising several volumes each.

"I am sure that the average undergraduate has not less patience or grit than the average undergraduate of my time. I think he works more; but he works in a different manner. I have taken counsel chiefly, in respect to your questions, of our assistant librarian, who remembers pretty well what books are taken out from the library. He knows no recent instance of a student having read through Gibbon's 'Decline and Fall.' Carlyle's 'Frederick the Great' has recently been attempted by one or two, but not completed. Carlyle's 'French Revolution' has been a good deal read. Of a consecutive reading of Bancroft he remembers no instance. Some have read through Motley's 'Dutch Republic.' Probably no one has also gone through his 'History of the United Netherlands.' John Fiske's writings are much in demand.

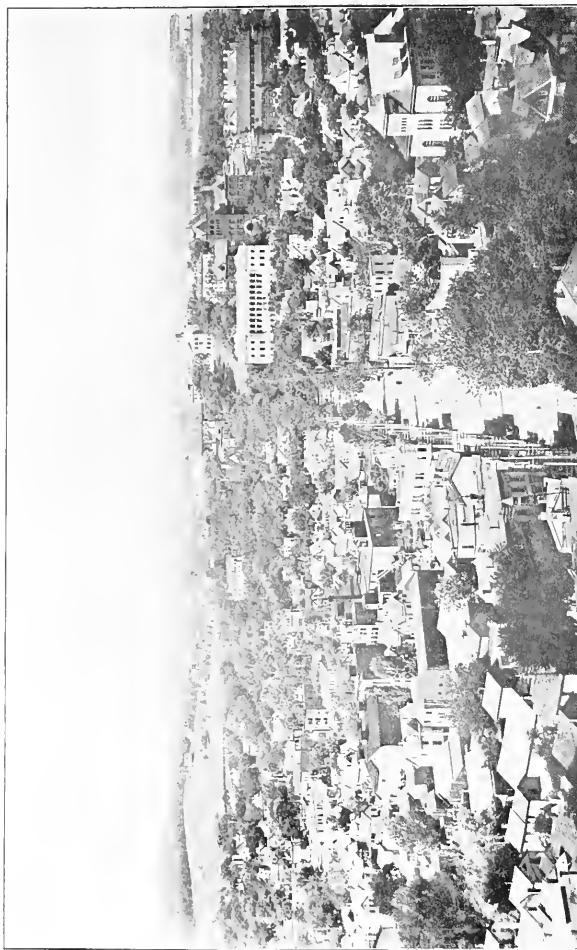
"I believe you would find very few college libraries in which the last volume of Gibbon showed signs of having been much used at any period, though Vol. I is often worn out.

"It is not the first time that the question has arisen in my mind whether our students ought not to-day to be given the opportunity to do more reading that is not positively required. But I presume that I shall answer the question, as I have always answered it before, by concluding that it is a better plan to make sure that *all* the students do enough work and, toward that end, to fill up the time of *all*, even of those who, without restraint, would read enough."

"The habit of reading practised by university students in history to-day is that of topical comparison—or at least (if the student or the references be at fault) topical emulation. Thus in the last decade a considerable number of pamphlets of references on American history have been published, doing on a small scale what the 'Guide' of Professors Channing and Hart does on a larger one. Judging from these guides, and my own experience and observation, I should say that this method of topical analysis and reference is the method used at present not only in universities but in colleges and larger high schools. A

**Gymnasium.**

Ladies' Hall.      University Hall.      Science Hall.  
State Historical Library Building.



AS SEEN FROM THE CAPITOL.

#### DEDICATION CEREMONIES

generation ago, doubtless, a student was thrown upon the text-book, recitation system; but if he were ambitious, then he would obtain his comparative view of history by reading—*independent or required*—in the classic works. To-day the comparative study is made easy, and is more or less required; but it is applied piecemeal, not broadly; to individual topics, narrow points. The student reads his authors ‘in little’ on each phase of a movement. In this way he rounds out each whole while details are fresh in mind—however he may lose in other respects. Now the fact is, that the topical reading is so exacting that a student has little time for the more generous reading of his authors. In other words, so far as his university courses are concerned, the chapter and page system is very largely forced upon a student. In view of such tendencies—which I have reason to believe are general and dominant—it would seem unlikely that the consecutive reading through of classics will again become more common. It could scarcely become less common.”

“The modern method of setting men to work to answer problems, or draw conclusions from various writers in a report or essay, leads men to use a book for a purpose, and such part of it, therefore, as they want, rather than to sit down and read consecutively a single author until they have finished him. In addition, doubtless, the hurry, the scattered interests in things athletic and public, in college contests and exhibitions, in social ‘functions,’ the general lack of repose and of steady application also contribute to explain the situation. These latter excesses are lamentable; but the modern method of historical study is in my opinion the right one, even were it not the only feasible one under modern conditions.”

“My experience and observation goes to show that steady or course historical reading among the undergraduates of the present day is avoided as far as possible. No more reading is done than is absolutely essential to satisfy the requirements of the instructor in the written weekly papers, and in the mid-year and final examinations. Furthermore, the amount of required reading which the students actually do is regulated by their ambitions to obtain high, medium, or low grades in their history courses. Of course there are exceptions in the students who do far more than the required reading simply because they are greatly interested in the subject-matter itself, but, in my opinion, the average student of to-day does no more than he really has to.”

“I should say students of to-day read widely in history, but not with very great steadiness: the greatest bursts are nearest the examination periods.”

Finally two others, one a recently graduated Harvard student, the other an undergraduate, to whom in my curiosity on the subject I was led to apply for information as to the reading tendencies among the younger generation so far as history from a literary point of view was concerned, kindly replied to my queries as follows:—

“In general my answer to your questions is decidedly that there is very little reading done by undergraduates in the older and more solid authors. The general tendency seems to be towards newer and abridged works like M. Duruy’s ‘Middle Ages’ and ‘Modern Times.’ What little reading is done in books like Gibbon, Carlyle, Hallam, etc., is done in little ‘dabs;’ there is no thought of a consecutive study of them. Especially is this true in the case of Gibbon. I had almost said that the ‘Decline and Fall’ is as little known here now, as in the days when its use was forbidden as ‘unorthodox.’ It was one of the books out of which the freshmen in history were advised to read a hundred pages, and though I told all my boys that they ought at least to look into it and know who Gibbon was, the general tendency was to fight shy of so weighty a work, and rather to read in books like Professor Emerton’s ‘Introduction to the Middle Ages.’ The ordinary undergraduate is too much scared by Macaulay’s allusiveness to get very far with him. *I think* I am correct in stating that I attended a course in which ten or fifteen lectures were devoted to the French Revolution, and Carlyle was not mentioned. Sorel and Von Siebel and Rose seem to have displaced him. Green is read a little more, I think.

“Of course it is the exception rather than the rule for the ordinary undergraduate to read solid books which are not recommended in his courses. I don’t think there is any great difference between the present undergraduate methods and those of the undergraduates of my day.”

“I think that most undergraduates do very little steady reading in history, the general tendency being to keep very near the minimum amount of prescribed reading in courses. Many men make sincere resolves to read more, and *begin* to read long works, but those who read from beginning to end are few indeed. A great deal of historical information is gained indirectly through indiscriminate magazine reading, especially in regard to current events. I have found that most of my acquaintances are usually familiar with so-and-so’s article in this or that magazine, from month to month.

#### WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY BUILDING

"I have myself read the whole of Gibbon several times from beginning to end, but I have never known of another undergraduate who had ever read so much as one volume through. Of eleven men to whom I addressed the question this morning, none had read Gibbon through, three had never read a page of his writings, and eight had read 'a few chapters,' these chapters having been required in a freshman course (History 1). None had ever read him voluntarily.

"I like the style of Macaulay best, but it is more because of his English than because of his historical methods. Nine of the eleven men questioned also favored Macaulay, and for the same reason, I fancy. Most undergraduates learn to admire him in English A, and in answering your question the men did not seem to discriminate between his English style and his historical methods. None seemed to have any opinion as to the merits of the methods of the different writers, not ever having given any thought to the question.

"I have myself read Hume, Gibbon, Macaulay, Ridpath, Fiske, Bancroft, Prescott, Irving, much biography and many memoirs, especially of American statesmen and of the Napoleonic era, because I like them; but I think very few men do this. Of the men questioned, eight had read Bryce's 'American Commonwealth,' which is required in one of Professor MacVane's government courses here. Two had read a part of McMaster's 'United States,' in connection with Professor Hart's History B, and one man, inspired by work done in Professor MacVane's History 12, had read May's 'Constitutional History of England' from beginning to end. Most men here have read Bryce.

"In the sense implied in your question, no, or very few, undergraduates read the long works nowadays. Most of the men I questioned looked at me rather quizzically when I asked them this question, as much as to say, 'What do you take us for?'"

The inference from all of which is obvious. In our institutions of advanced education, literary form as an element in good historical work, when not actually discontenanced, is now wholly ignored. The method in vogue is suggestive of that pursued by the critic of the Eatanswill Gazette, in his admired review of the work on Chinese metaphysics. The student is expected to improve himself in literature in the English department, and in history and the historical methods in the historical department; and, subsequently, combine his information.



IN THE MUSEUM  
Looking eastward, through the south gallery.

## MISCELLANEOUS

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A DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING—*The Editor*

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY—*The Editor*

THE WORK OF THE SOCIETY—*The Editor*

THE LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN—*Walter McMyren Smith*, Librarian

THE LIBRARY OF THE WISCONSIN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, ARTS, AND LETTERS—  
*William Herbert Hobbs*

WHAT DISTINGUISHED LIBRARIANS THINK OF THE BUILDING



## A DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING

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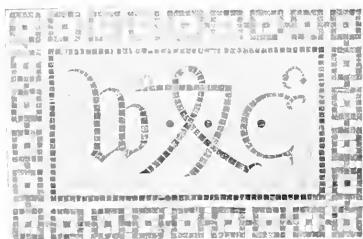
BY REUBEN G. THWAITES.

HE new building of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, provided by the generosity of the legislatures of 1895, 1897, and 1899, has been erected upon a rising plot of ground, consisting of eight city lots, lying to the west of what is known as the "lower campus" of the University of Wisconsin. This plot, which is 264 feet square, fronting on State, Langdon, and Park streets, was deeded to the state for the purpose, by the board of regents of the University.

The statutes providing for the construction of the building permitted the Society to invite thereto such other state-supported libraries as it deemed proper. From the first, it was well understood by the Board of Building Commissioners that the library of the University was to be housed beneath the same roof. Ample provisions were therefore made for the latter, and to this fact the plans owe their somewhat peculiar arrangement. The attempt has been made, and we believe successfully, to provide for two distinct libraries, separately administered, but using the reading and delivery rooms in common. By joint agreement, the Historical Society retains the general administration of the entire building — such as heating, lighting, cleaning, repairing, policing, and the special custody of all rooms to which the public are admitted; but the University controls the actual daily use of its own offices, seminary rooms, storage rooms, and the space assigned to it in the southwest book-stack wing. When the northwest book-stack wing is constructed, the University library will be transferred thither. This wing will, as indicated upon the floor plans, be in direct connection with the administrative rooms of that library.

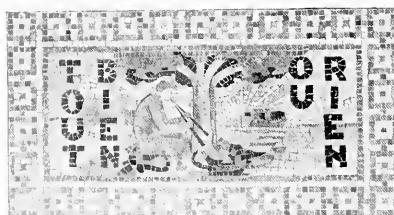
The principal façade is on the east, facing the lower campus and the city. The best and most familiar views of the structure are from the southeast, on State street, and the northeast, on Langdon street; but these do not include the book-stack wing, and thus fail to give an adequate conception of the great depth of the building from east to west. Although the principal entrance is on the east façade, there are side entrances on State and Langdon streets, with an attractive campus entrance in the rear on Park street, between the book-stack wings, for the convenience of persons approaching the building from "the hill." The situation is commanding. As the ground slopes upward to the west (rear), a balconied terrace is rendered necessary on the east, north, and south sides; the east terrace is lighted by electric lanterns surmounting two beautiful stone columns. The outlook from the general reading room is an interesting roof-view of the neighborhood, with pretty glimpses of Lake Mendota, dissected by the University gymnasium and neighboring residences. From the roof, there is visible a wide sweep of land and water.

WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY BUILDING



MARK OF WILLIAM CAXTON, 1489

Caxton was one of the earliest English printers. As commonly interpreted, the device reads, "W 74 C" — possibly the figures refer to 1474, the date of the introduction of printing into England.



MARK OF RIVERSIDE PRESS

Chosen as representing American printers. The design is by Elihu Vedder, modified by the architects for mosaic treatment.



MARK OF THE ELZIVIRS, 1620

The Elzivirs were Amsterdam printers. The motto, "Non Solus;" this, with the device, symbolizes the preference of the wise for solitude.



MARK OF ALDUS MANUTIUS, 1502

The Aldines were at the head of the printers of Venice.



MARK OF JEHAN FREILLON, 1540-50

A Lyons printer of repute.



MARK OF MELCHIOR LOTTER, 1491-1536

A Leipzig printer. As "Lotter" is an old German word for "vagabond," the mark represents a beggar in a suppliant attitude.

PRINTERS' MARKS IN MOSAIC PAVEMENT, FIRST FLOOR.

*DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING*

The building, designed by Ferry & Clas, architects, of Milwaukee, is constructed of Buff Bedford limestone, from Bedford, Ind. The architecture is of the Ionic order, in the renaissance style. While the exterior of the structure is distinctly the work of the architects, the interior arrangement—as is proper, for this is a librarians' workshop—is in all essential particulars the plan of those who occupy it. Their wishes—based on experience, on the peculiar needs of the Historical and University libraries, and on wide observation and study of other great reference and university libraries in this country and abroad—have been faithfully observed by the architects; and it is believed that the building is as nearly perfect from a librarian's point of view, as possible under the circumstances.

The basement is entered either by means of marble stairways leading down from the first, or main, floor, or by the freight-runway on State street. In room no. 2, beneath the book stacks, bicycles can be stored while their owners are within the building. The greater part of the basement is devoted to the storage of bound newspaper files, duplicate books and pamphlets, Wisconsin state documents carried in bulk by the Society for exchange purposes, packing and unpacking rooms for both Society and University libraries, janitors' repair shop, engines, fans, electric motors, etc. In the unpacking room (no. 4), an electric freight elevator, capable of carrying attendants and trucks of books, ascends from the basement to all floors of the wing; there is also an electric book-lift, for books and small packages. Heat is obtained from the University central heating plant, a tunnel from which underlies the Langdon street (north) side.

The average visitor will prefer to enter upon the first floor direct. Approaching the main (east) portal, one ascends the terrace stairs, which are about six feet high, crosses the east terrace, and enters through one of three arches into an outer vestibule; the inner vestibule opens into the great corridor. Toilet and cloak rooms (nos. 111-115) flank the rear, or Park street, entrance; to the north of these, are

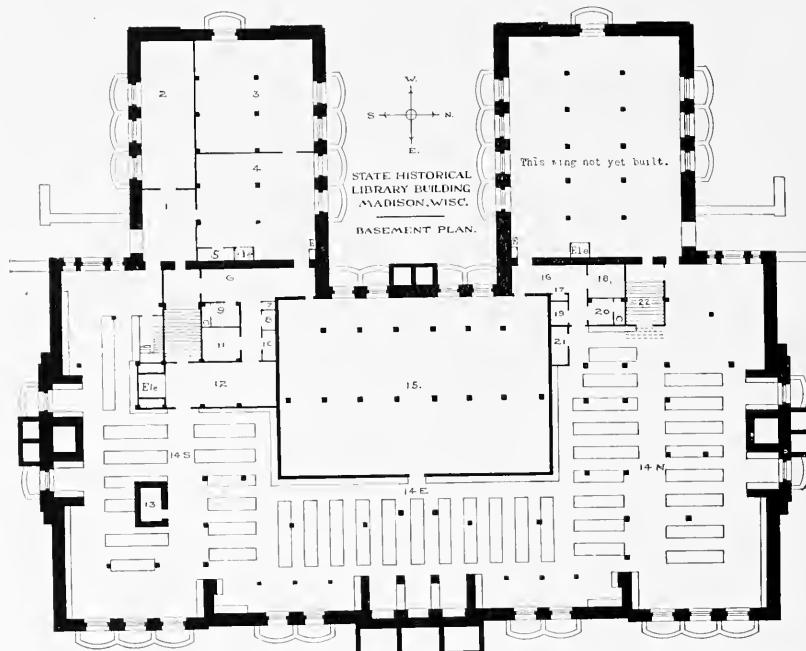
GEORGE B. FERRY  
Of Ferry & Clas, architects, Milwaukee.



ALFRED C. CLAS  
Of Ferry & Clas, architects, Milwaukee.

WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY BUILDING

marble stairs leading up to the offices of the University library, and the general reading room; to the south, a similar staircase ascends to the Society's offices and the reading room. An electric passenger elevator, running up to the museum on the fourth floor, is situated near the foot of the south stairs.



Room.	Description.	Dimensions.	Room.	Description.	Dimensions.
1.	Vestibule . . . .	15 x 20	13.	Vault . . . .	6 x 10
2.	Bicycle room . . . .	15 x 41	14.	Newspapers files . . . .	50 x 76
3.	Stock and storage room . . . .	31 x 33	15.	Heating apparatus . . . .	9 x 20
4.	Stock and packing room . . . .	30 x 33	16.	Hall . . . .	3 x 4
5.	Elevator machinery . . . .	4 x 11	17.	Closet . . . .	9 x 11
6.	Hall . . . .	9 x 32	18.	Closet . . . .	4 x 5
7.	Closet . . . .	3 x 4	19.	Closet . . . .	7 x 12
8.	Closet . . . .	4 x 5	20.	Janitors' toilet—women . . . .	4 x 12
9.	Janitors' toilet—men . . . .	7 x 10	21.	Closet . . . .	9 x 10
10.	Closet . . . .	4 x 9	22.	Closet . . . .	
11.	Boiler room . . . .	10 x 11	E.	Ele. Elevator . . . .	
12.	Elevator machinery . . . .	11 x 32	R.	Book lift . . . .	

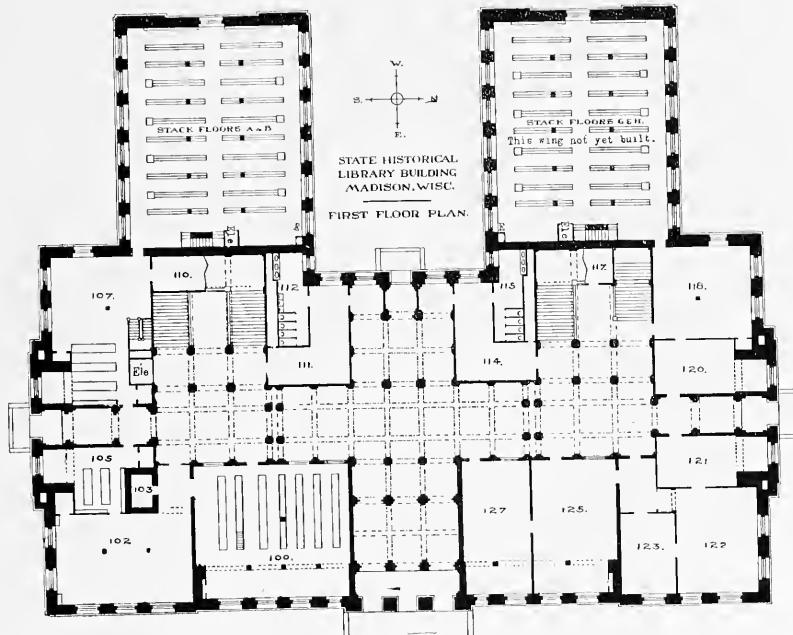
Room 100, near the elevator, is devoted to public documents—government, state, and municipal reports from all parts of the Union and many foreign countries; these are shelved upon a double-storied steel stack. There are ample tables for the use of readers.

Adjoining this departmental library to the south is the department of maps, manuscripts, and photographs (room 102).

*DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING*

In room 105, east of the State-street entrance, are stored upon a double-storied stack the current newspapers, which are received by the Society in large numbers; in this room, they are, in due course, prepared for binding.

Across the way (room 107) is the department of bound newspaper files; here, also upon a double tier of steel shelves, are to be found the news journals of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and modern quarto papers, while consultation tables are conveniently near. A stairway leads to the basement, where the bulk of the Society's great collection of newspapers is stored.



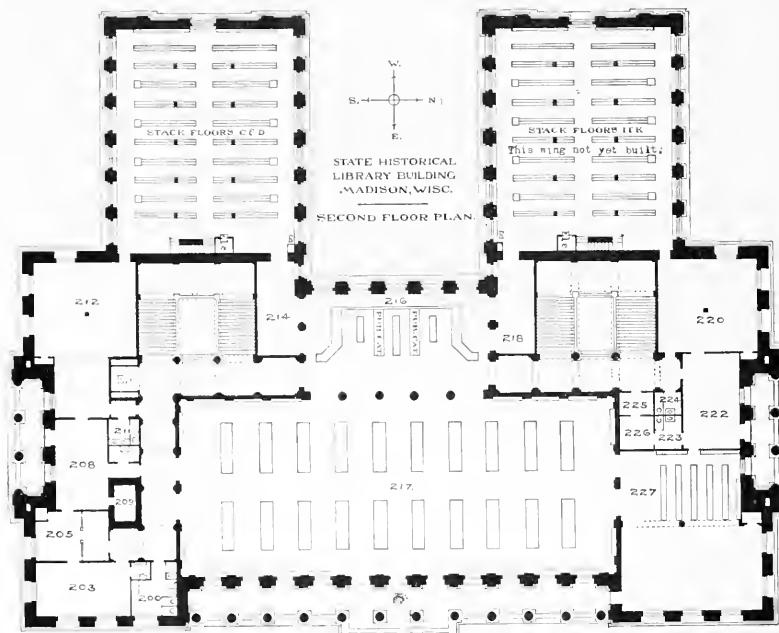
Room.	Description.	Dimensions.	Room.	Description.	Dimensions.
100.	Public documents	37 x 45	117.	Janitors' store room	10 x 22
102.	Atlases, maps, and manuscripts	26 x 39	118.	U. W. Library duplicates	28 x 29
103.	Vault	6 x 10	120.	Mathematics seminary	17 x 23
105.	Current newspapers	18 x 24	121.	Political Science seminary	15 x 23
107.	Newspaper consultation room	28 x 45	122.	Economics seminary	22 x 29
110.	Newspaper files	10 x 32	123.	History seminary	16 x 24
111.	Men's cloak room	10 x 40	128.	History seminary	24 x 38
112.	Toilet	9 x 28	127.	History seminary	21 x 38
114.	Women's cloak room	10 x 40	E.	Elevator	
115.	Toilet	9 x 28	E.	Book lift	

At the north end of the first floor will be found several University seminaries, where advanced students may, in certain lines of investigation, under direct guidance of their instructors, study and use the special libraries therein stored. Room 118 is at present used by the University library for the storage of duplicates, but may eventually be occupied by the Wisconsin Free Library Commission, now quartered in the capitol. Room 120 is the

## WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY BUILDING

mathematics seminary; 121 and 122 are similarly used by the School of Economics and Political Science; and 123, 125, and 127 by the School of History.

The visitor who has, either by means of the elevator or the south stairway, ascended to the second floor, will find, when facing eastward, that ahead of him is the corridor leading to the offices and principal work-rooms of the Society. The business office, where all visitors are received, is no. 205. From here, a system of local "house" telephones (with 37 stations)



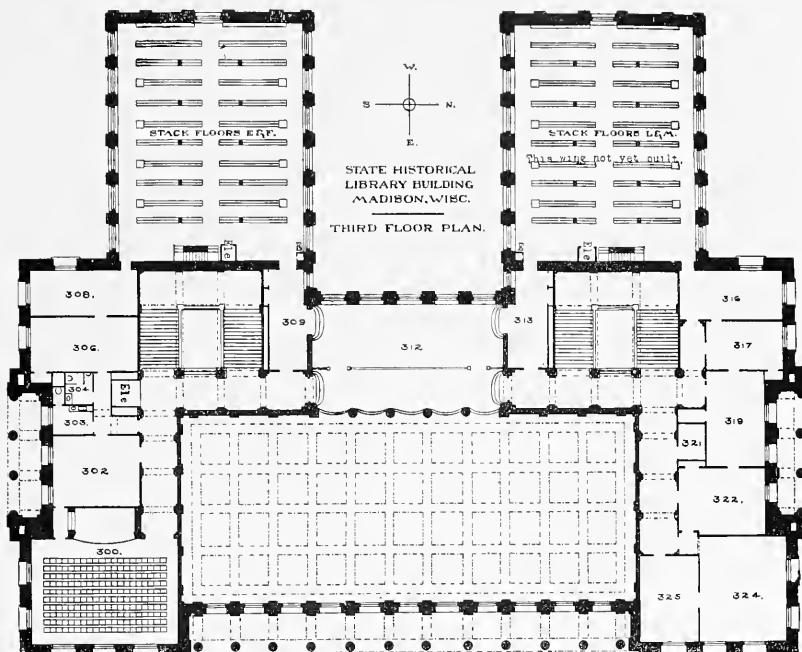
Room.	Description.	Dimensions.	Room.	Description.	Dimensions.
200.	Toilet	8 x 11	218.	Delivery room	10 x 27
203.	Secretary's office	15 x 26	220.	U. W. catalogue room	27 x 29
205.	Business office	14 x 20	222.	U. W. librarian's office	17 x 28
208.	Librarian's office	15 x 26	223.	Toilet	6 x 9
209.	Vault	6 x 10	224.	Toilet	5 x 5
210.	Closet	5 x 9	225.	Janitors' store room	6 x 9
211.	Toilet	7 x 9	226.	Store room	9 x 9
212.	Official catalogue room	29 x 44	227.	Periodical room	39 x 45
214.	Delivery room	10 x 27	E.	Elevator	
216.	Delivery room	28 x 50	E.	Book lift	
217.	General reading room	48 x 118			

and electric bells communicates with all portions of the building. To the left (no. 203), as one enters, is the office of the secretary and superintendent; to the right (no. 208) is that of the librarian and assistant superintendent. Beyond the latter office is a large, well-lighted room (no. 212), where new books are accessioned, classified, and catalogued.

When at last ready for the shelves, books are run out upon a truck to the adjoining book-stack, in the southwest wing, and dispatched by either the freight elevator or the

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING

book-lift to the particular floor to which they have been assigned. The book stack consists of six stories, each about 7 ft. 4 in. high, fitted with steel book-shelves of the latest design. In addition to the elevator and the book-lift, a continuous stairway connects the several floors. Upon each floor of the stack, are desks and tables for the use of those specialists and advanced students who have been given the privilege of direct access to the shelves; every



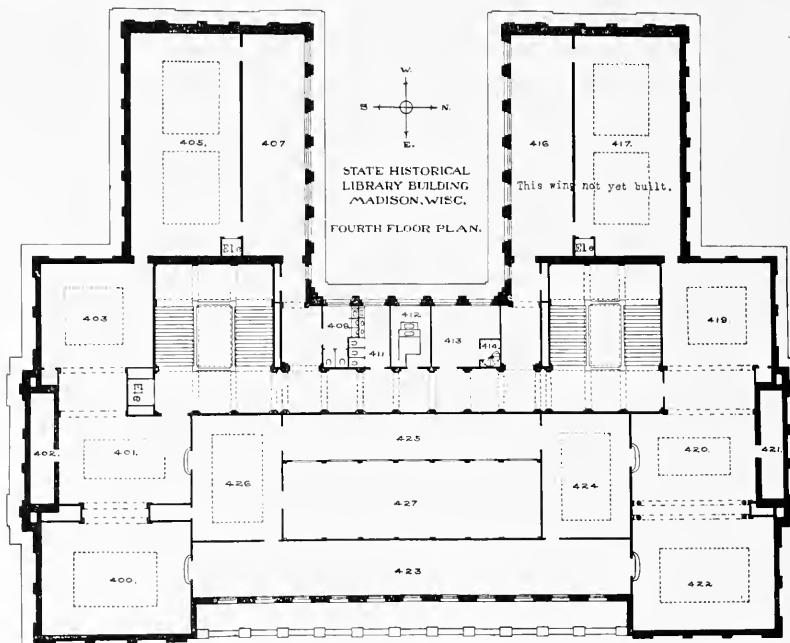
Room.	Description.	Dimensions.	Room.	Description.	Dimensions.
300.	Lecture hall	. . . . . 30 x 39	313.	Study	. . . . . 10 x 28
302.	Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters	. . . . . 18 x 24	316.	German seminary	. . . . . 16 x 29
303.	Toilet	. . . . . 7 x 11	317.	Latin and Greek seminary	. . . . . 13 x 23
304.	Toilet	. . . . . 7 x 8	319.	Latin and Greek seminary	. . . . . 17 x 24
306.	Clerical office	. . . . . 13 x 29	321.	Janitors' store room	. . . . . 6 x 8
308.	Secretary's study	. . . . . 14 x 29	322.	French seminary	. . . . . 17 x 23
309.	Study <sup>2nd</sup>	. . . . . 10 x 28	324.	English seminary	. . . . . 22 x 29
311.	Visitors' balcony	. . . . . 10 x 50	325.	Philosophy and Education seminary	. . . . . 16 x 24
312.	Art and genealogy	. . . . . 18 x 50	E.	Elevator	
			E.	Book lift	

alternate case is shortened, to make room for a small desk at the end. Each floor of the stack will shelve somewhat over 40,000 volumes—thus the stack-wing now completed has a capacity of 250,000. Add to this, the books upon the shelves of the general reading room, the periodical room, the several departmental libraries, the newspaper stack in the basement, the libraries of the University seminaries, and the proposed northwest stack wing (as yet unbuilt), and

### WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY BUILDING

we see that the normal capacity of the building as planned will ultimately be about 675,000 volumes.<sup>1</sup>

In connection with the Society's offices are cloak and toilet rooms for the convenience of the staff. Upon each stack floor is a stationary wash-basin; indeed, every floor of the building is abundantly provided with toilet conveniences for both public and staff.



MUSEUM AND PORTRAIT GALLERY.

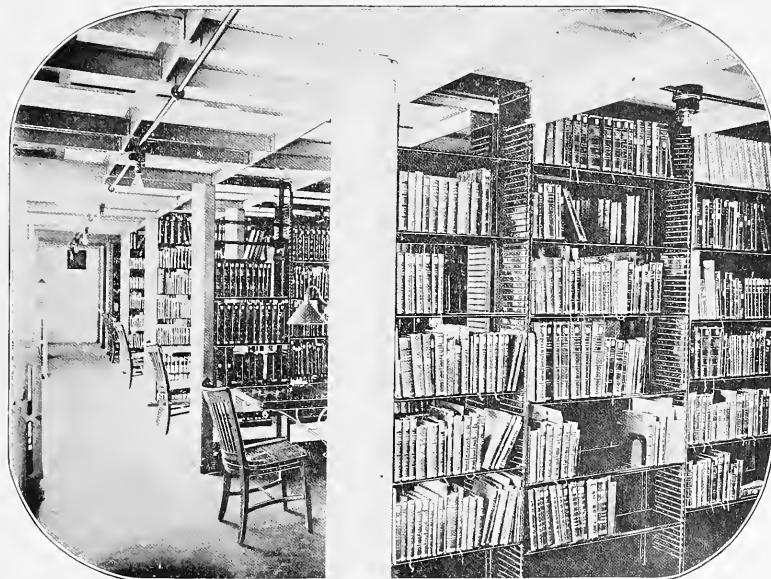
Room.	Description.	Dimensions.	Room.	Description.	Dimensions.
402.	Store room	6 x 32	413.	Janitors' room	18 x 20
409.	Toilet—men	6 x 17	414.	Stairs to roof	
411.	Toilet—women	9 x 18	421.	Store room	6 x 32
412.	Photographic dark room	6 x 8	Ele.	Elevator	

<sup>1</sup>The book-storage capacity of the building is classified as follows:

	Volumes	Volume
Stack wing (6 stories)	250,000	13,000
Genealogy and art department	6,000	8,000
Reading-room shelves	5,000	20,000
Poole periodical room	20,000	
Public documents department	35,000	413,000
Maps and manuscripts department	3,000	
Unbound newspaper room	8,000	262,000
Newspaper consultation room (17th and 18th century and quarto papers)	10,000	
Bound newspaper files (in basement)	20,000	
Duplicate and stock rooms (in basement)	15,000	675,000

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING

Should the visitor to the second floor seek the general reading room (no. 217), he will approach it through double swing doors. Immediately upon entrance will be seen the delivery department (no. 216), separated from the reading room by four pillars; at the delivery desks—the one on the north (no. 218) is that of the University library, that on the south (no. 214), of the Society's library—are attendants to whom may be made applications for books stored in the stacks. Near by, are the public card catalogues, with convenient stools and tables for those wishing to be seated while consulting the trays. The large hall itself, capable of seating 240 readers, is equipped with mahogany tables and chairs, electric reading lamps, and all necessary modern conveniences. Around the walls, freely accessible to readers, are shelved some 5,000 selected reference books, covering all the principal

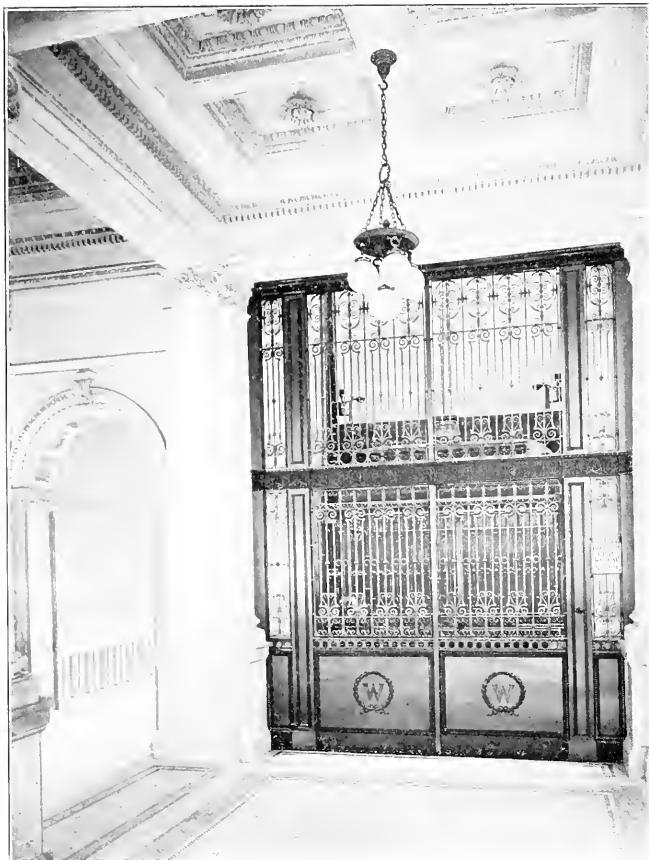


A BOOK STACK FLOOR

Looking west, upon south side of stack E. There are six floors of stacks, of similar character.

branches of knowledge. The hall, being 30 feet high, extends up through two stories of the building; it is lighted not only by the great bank of windows fronting upon the eastern colonnade, but by ample skylights set in the museum floor overhead. Over the delivery department there is a balcony for the accommodation of visitors; for only readers are admitted to the floor of the reading room itself.

In the beautiful periodical room (no. 227) adjoining, in the northeast corner, are kept, upon a double-storied steel stack, those periodicals of both libraries, current and bound, which are included in *Poole's Index*; also, bound files of engineering and other technical periodicals. This room, as also the general reading room, communicates with the impressive colonnaded loggia running along the east front of the latter.

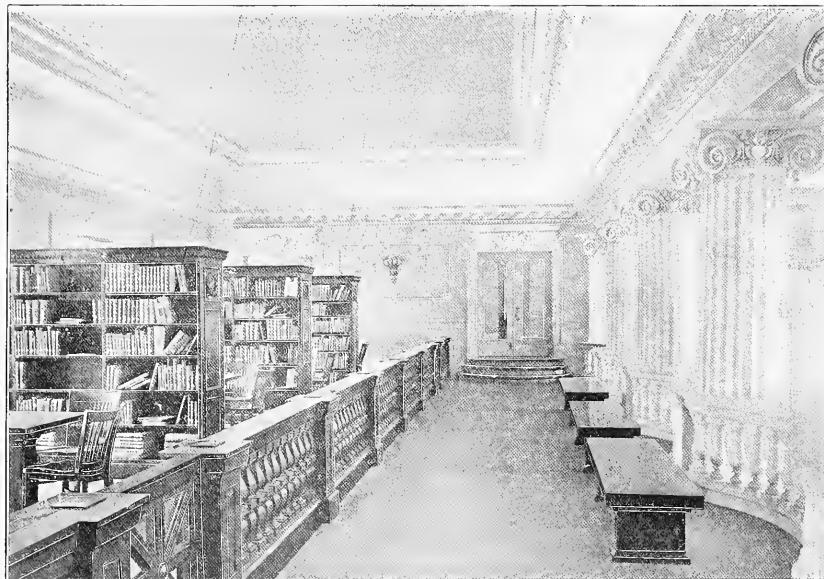


THE PASSENGER ELEVATOR  
Upon the second floor; entrance to staff room on left.

#### *DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING*

Leaving the great reading room by the north entrance, one finds himself opposite the administrative offices of the University library (no. 222), whose catalogue room (no. 220) adjoins. Eventually this latter will, as previously stated, open directly into the northwest stack wing, when built.

As will be seen upon reference to the plans, a large part of the third floor is occupied by the upper part of the reading room, and the visitors' balcony. Separated by a railing from this balcony (no. 312) are the large genealogical collections of the Society and the art departments of both libraries. In connection with this departmental library, are two special study rooms (nos. 309 and 313) for the convenience of such visitors to the building as are engaged in protracted literary work, and need at hand large numbers of reference books.



VISITORS' BALCONY

Genealogical and Art Libraries within the railing; to the right, the balcony overlooks the general reading room.

Along the north side of the building, upon this floor, are six University seminary rooms—no. 316 being devoted to the German department, 317 and 319 to Latin and Greek, 322 to French, 324 to English, and 325 to philosophy and education. Some of these seminaries, particularly the German and French, contain notable special libraries in their respective fields of research.

The rooms upon the south side of the third floor are chiefly used for the purposes of the Society. The lecture hall (no. 300), which will seat about 200 persons, is used for meetings of the Society, the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters, and such other state associations as may need accommodation; it is so equipped that it can be dark-

WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY BUILDING

ened at any time of the day for stereopticon lectures, and art exhibits may also here be held. The adjoining committee room (no. 302) is likewise used as the business office of the Academy of Sciences. Toilet rooms are in the immediate neighborhood; and in the rear of these are offices (nos. 306 and 308) which are used by those of the Society's staff who are engaged in preparing publications for the press, proof-reading, and official research work—it will be seen from the plan that these rooms are immediately connected with the book-stack, so as to be convenient to needed works of reference.



DELIVERY ROOM

Looking southward, from University Library counter; the Society's counter is at south end of room, beyond the public card catalogue. To the left, between the columns, is a view of the general reading room.

The fourth floor will of course chiefly interest the general public, for here is quartered the museum. Ample arrangements have been made for the accommodation of such of the Society's collections as are fitted for exhibition. The two public stairways lead to this floor; also, the electric passenger and freight elevators. There are toilet rooms for both sexes, work and store rooms for the janitor and cleaners, a dark room for photographers who may be engaged in making reproductions within the building, and a series of galleries and cabinet rooms which so open one into another as at every turn to present pleasing vistas. Rooms 405 and 407 are devoted to American ethnology; 423 to general curiosities; 424 to Wisconsin war history; 425 to

*DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING*

china, coins, etc.; and 426 to black and white art. It will be noticed that the galleries are illuminated by central skylights; while the cabinet rooms (nos. 407, 423, and 425) receive light from side windows opening either upon the west court, or upon an open space back of the topmost railing (just above the reading-room colonnade).



IN THE MUSEUM  
Looking eastward, through the north gallery.



THE GERMAN SEMINARY  
Given as a sample of the twelve seminary rooms in the building; many others are of greater dimensions.

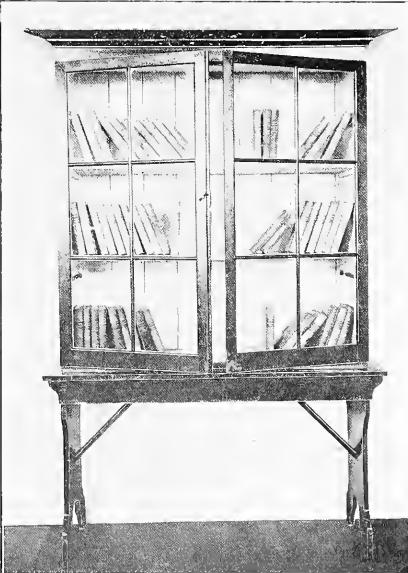
## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BY REUBEN G. THWAMITES.

### *The Suggestion.*

 IN THE autumn of 1845, Richard H. Magoon, an early settler of what is now La Fayette county, Wisconsin, suggested to Chauncey C. Britt, editor of the *Mineral Point Democrat*, the advisability of organizing an historical society "to collect from the pioneers then alive, such facts in regard to the early history of Wisconsin as they might possess, as well as to treasure up those concerning the future." In an article in his journal of the date of October twenty-second, 1845, Editor Britt forcibly seconded the motion, and asked his brethren of the press "to keep this ball in motion until the object is attained." The *Madison Argus*, of the twenty-eighth of October, fell in with the idea, and very soon all of the papers of Wisconsin Territory responded favorably to the call; while Gen. William R. Smith, a distinguished pioneer lawyer of Mineral Point, privately urged the matter in his neighborhood.

It was hoped that, as a consequence of the agitation, something would be done in this direction during the forthcoming session of the territorial legislature at Madison; but the session was a brief one, lasting only from January fifth to February third, 1846, and other affairs occupied the minds of the representative men gathered at the capital during that period. In September, 1846, Mr. Britt renewed his editorial advocacy of the project, in the *Milwaukee Courier*, with which he was connected, and advised that during the convention that had been called to frame a state constitution, a meeting be held to perfect the proposed historical society. The *Madison Express* and several other journals followed the *Courier's* lead in this suggestion.



THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY, IN 1853  
The case is now preserved in the museum.

WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY BUILDING

*The First Organization, 1846.*

The first constitutional convention opened at Madison the fifth of October, 1846, most of the principal men of the territory being chosen as delegates to the body. Judge Thomas P. Burnett, of Grant county, one of the members, was, owing to illness, nine days late in reaching Madison; but upon his arrival he proceeded amid his other duties to do what he could to carry out the project of an historical society.<sup>1</sup> He called a meeting of a few prominent delegates at his room in the American House, among those present being Gov. James Duane Doty, Gen. William R. Smith, Thomas W. Sutherland, George Hyer, A. Hyatt Smith, and Don A. J. Upham. Judge Burnett, who was among the most eminent of the early jurists of Wisconsin, addressed the meeting, and it was resolved to organize such a society.



IN THE NEWSPAPER STACK

The arrangement is chronological, outside of Wisconsin; alphabetical by localities, for the state papers.

A more formal meeting was held in the State Library room of the old capitol, a few evenings later, both conferences being held between the fourteenth and the twenty-fifth of October; no record exists of the exact dates, and the local newspapers failed to notice the affair. A. Hyatt Smith of Janesville is reported to have been chairman of the second meeting, and to have been chosen president of the Society; Judge Burnett and Governor Doty were selected as vice-presidents, E. M. Williamson of Madison as treasurer, and Mr. Sutherland as secretary. A constitution providing for life and active members was adopted, and the officers were to hold until the first annual meeting in January following. Governor Doty was selected as the first annual orator; but at this annual meeting in January, 1847, held soon after the commencement of the legislative session, the governor failed to make the requested address. New officers were chosen, Morgan L. Martin of Green Bay being selected as president, while Sutherland and Williamson were re-elected to be secretary and treasurer respectively. There were, however, neither records kept nor money paid into the treasury, and the new president did not deliver the address he had been invited to prepare.

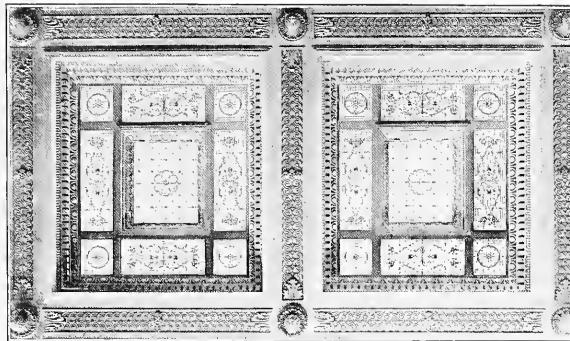
<sup>1</sup> A formal call had been published in the Madison *Express* for September 29, 1846.

#### BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY

The year had passed without progress or the performance of any official duty. In January, 1848, during the second constitutional convention, another meeting was held, General Smith being elected president. But the gathering was a failure, both as to numbers and interest, less than a dozen persons being present; the first organization of the Society may be considered as having died when the gavel sounded for adjournment.

#### *The Second Organization, 1849.*

There was, in after years, when the Society became successful, some dispute as to whom the honor should be awarded for reviving the historical society idea a twelve-month later. The parties to the dispute have now passed away, and we may safely inquire into its merits. To Eleazer Root, of Waukesha, Wisconsin's first state superintendent of public instruction, is doubtless chiefly due the credit of "the efficient movement" in this direction.



THE READING ROOM CEILING  
Showing two of the panels of art glass, in ceiling of general reading room.

From this time forward the records of the Society are complete, and from them we learn that, on the twenty-ninth of January, 1849, nineteen days after the opening of the first session of the state legislature in Madison, a number of citizens and legislators held a meeting at the American House to take into consideration the project of forming a state historical society, the existence of the previous society being ignored. Of this meeting, John Y. Smith of Dane county was chosen chairman, and E. M. Williamson, also of Dane, secretary. Superintendent Root explained the object sought. It was voted to organize such a society, and George Reed of Waukesha and Mr. Root were appointed a committee to draft a constitution and circulate a call.

The following evening, as a result of this call, a well-attended popular meeting was convened in the senate chamber in the state house. Mr. Root was called to the chair, and General Smith served as secretary. Judge Charles H. Larrabee of Dodge, Samuel Crawford of Iowa, Alfred Brunson of Crawford, General Smith, and John Y. Smith made explanatory speeches. It was again formally decided to organize a society, and George Reed, John Y. Smith, and Increase A. Lapham of Milwaukee, were appointed a committee to draft a constitution. A brief and simple document was at once submitted and unanimously adopted, giving the name of the organization as "The Historical Society of Wisconsin,"

*WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY BUILDING*

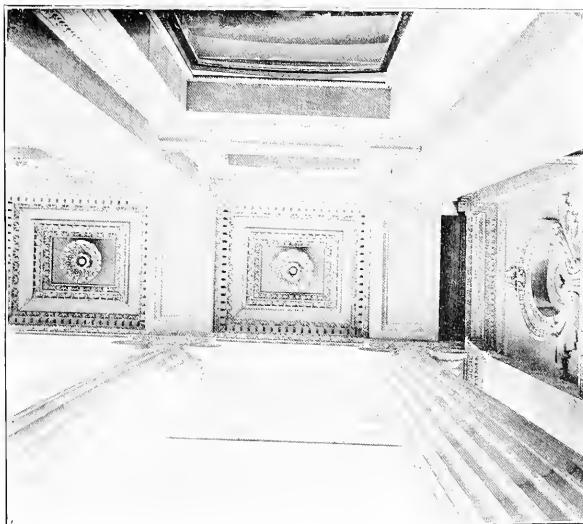
The following persons signed the roll<sup>1</sup>—most of them being state officials or members of the legislature, with others who were known as among the most distinguished citizens of the commonwealth:

NAME	COUNTY	NAME	COUNTY
Jonathan E. Arnold	Milwaukee	J. M. Gillet	Fond du Lac
David Atwood	Dane	Alexander T. Gray	Dane
Hiram Barber	Dodge	Agoston Haraszthy	Waupaca
W. A. Barstow	Waupaca	— Hazeltine	Richland
Samuel W. Beall	Fond du Lac	Harrison C. Hobart	Sheboygan
J. O. Bennett	Racine	John E. Holmes	Jefferson
George W. Bicknell	Rock	Benjamin Holt	Dane
W. R. Biddlecome	Grant	Otis Hoyt	St. Croix
Alexander Botkin	Dane	Levi Hubbell	Milwaukee
Joseph Bowron	St. Croix	F. Hudson	Dane
John W. Boyd	Walworth	William Hull	Grant
Ebenezer Brigham	Dane	J. W. Hunt, M. D.	Waupaca
Alfred Brunson	Crawford	A. C. Ingham	Winnebago
Beriah Brown	Dane	M. M. Jackson	Iowa
John A. Bryan	Milwaukee	Daniel Jones	Oconto
Royal Buek	Dane	Solomon Juneau	Milwaukee
B. B. Cary	Racine	D. M. Keeler	Walworth
John Catlin	Dane	Joseph Kerr	Columbia
C. B. Chapman	Dane	Byron Kilbourne	Milwaukee
C. S. Chase	Racine	J. Gillet Knapp	Dane
Daniel Claghorn	Adams	Wyrain Knowlton	Crawford
Julius T. Clark	Dane	A. P. Ladd	La Fayette
J. H. W. Colby	Manitowoc	L. A. Lapham	Milwaukee
O. M. Conover	Dane	Charles H. Larrabee	Dodge
Montgomery M. Cothren	Iowa	J. T. Lewis	Columbus
John C. Crawford	Green	Charles Lord	Dane
Samuel Crawford	Iowa	Frederick S. Lovell	Racine
— Dake	La Pointe	Cyrus R. Low	Grant
M. C. Darling	Fond du Lac	W. P. McIndoe	Marathon
Anson Dart	Marquette	M. L. Martin	Brown
John Delaney	Portage	Peter W. Matts	Dane
G. P. Delaplaine	Dane	James Maxwell	Sauk
Nelson Dewey	Grant	John H. Meigs	Waupaca
W. H. Dick	Calumet	George W. Mitchell	Portage
James D. Doty	Winnebago	G. D. G. Moore	Sauk
Erastus W. Drury	Fond du Lac	Benjamin H. Moore	Washington
Charles Dunn	La Fayette	Charles Pember	Door
William Dutcher	Jefferson	Charles Pulsifer	La Pointe
Benjamin C. Eastman	Grant	A. W. Randall	Waupaca
A. G. Ellis	Brown	Francis Randall	Milwaukee
L. J. Farwell	Dane	Duncan C. Reed	Milwaukee
John Favill	Dane	George Reed	Waupaca
G. W. Featherstonhaugh	Crawford	Eleazer Root	Waupaca
Michael Frank	Racine	John H. Romtree	Grant
George Gale	Walworth	J. S. Russell	Grant
E. T. Gardner	Green	Malcolm Sellers	Dodge

<sup>1</sup> Most of them appear merely to have authorized their names to be signed by the secretary, whose spelling is not always such as was adopted by the individuals themselves. The orthography in our list, is that of the roll itself.

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY

NAME	COUNTY	NAME	COUNTY
Abram D. Smith	Milwaukee	W. S. Tibbets	Bad Ax
George B. Smith	Dane	J. A. Townsend	Waukesha
John V. Smith	Dane	Philo White	Racine
Rudolph Van Dyke Smith	St. Croix	Edward V. Whiton	Rock
William R. Smith	Iowa	G. D. Wilbur, M. D.	Iowa
J. W. Sterling	Dane	Myron B. Williams	Jefferson
William T. Sterling	Chippewa	E. M. Williamson	Dane
John W. Stewart	Green	Lewis N. Wood	Walworth
Marshall M. Strong	Racine	Cyrus Woodman	Iowa
M. M. Strong	Iowa	H. A. Wright	Crawford
Thomas W. Sutherland	Dane	J. Wright	Dane
Henry W. Tenney	Milwaukee	T. L. Wright	Rock
H. A. Tenney	Dane		



A GLANCE UPWARD  
Carved rosettes upon ceiling of east loggia; also showing carving on side walls.

Gov. Nelson Dewey was chosen president of the Society, under a clause of the constitution providing that the governor should so act, by virtue of his official station. The list of vice-presidents comprised one from each county in the state. I. A. Lapham, a distinguished scientist and antiquarian, was elected corresponding secretary; Rev. Charles Lord of Dane, recording secretary; E. M. Williamson, treasurer; and John Catlin, Beriah Brown, and Alexander Botkin, all of Dane, the executive committee. The other business of the meeting consisted solely of the passage of two resolutions: the first, inviting General Smith to deliver an address at the next annual meeting; the second, asking the surveyors of the state to furnish to the Society "actual measurements of the ancient mounds and artificial earthworks in their vicinity."

#### WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY BUILDING

On the evening of Tuesday, January fifteenth, 1850, General Smith delivered in the assembly chamber the first annual address before the Society, the judges of the supreme court and the regents of the State University being present as invited guests. The recording secretary has entered upon his journal that "the discourse was elaborate in its researches, felicitous in its style, classical in its tone, and pervaded throughout with a spirit of accuracy and of beauty, and by a warm sympathy with the truth uttered and the events and persons described." And, indeed, the printed copy of the address, which lies open before me as I write, warrants this warm encomium; it carefully mapped out, for the first time, the general course of early Wisconsin history, and later explorers in that field have but added details to our knowledge.



LIBRARIAN BRADLEY'S OFFICE  
Through the open door is seen the cataloguing room.

On Tuesday evening, January twenty-first, 1851, Morgan L. Martin delivered the annual address; and March sixteenth, 1852, Lewis N. Wood of Walworth was the third annual speaker. But beyond these three addresses nothing of importance was done during this period. The discourses, in pamphlet form, were sent out to perhaps a dozen other learned societies, and a library of fifty volumes was slowly accumulated — these books being state laws, legislative journals, miscellaneous public documents, two volumes of the *Transactions* of the American Ethnological Society, and a volume on American bibliography. The meagre collection was contained in a small glass-faced case, three by four feet, kept on a table in a corner of the governor's office, and this case is now exhibited as a curiosity in the Society's museum.

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY

*The Reorganization, 1853.*

It was evident that the Society would never amount to anything, at this rate of progress. What was everybody's business was nobody's; someone must devote his entire time to the work, becoming personally responsible for the conduct of the Society's affairs, and imparting to it life and individual character. The man for the place was imported to Madison in October, 1852. He was Lyman Copeland Draper, of Philadelphia, who had already spent about fifteen years in the accumulation of materials for Western history, achieving such success in his manuscript and book collections, in a time when collectors of Americana were few, as to attract the attention of scholars throughout the Eastern states. Draper was then thirty-seven years of age, full of vigor and push, kindly of disposition, persuasive in argument, devoted to his life-task of collecting, self-denying in the cause, and of unimpeachable character.

For various reasons, not necessary here to recite, it was the eighteenth day of January, 1854, before the Society was thoroughly reorganized for work on the new plan.<sup>1</sup> Dr. Draper was at that time chosen secretary, and at once entered with joyous enthusiasm upon the undertaking of accumulating books for the library, relics and curiosities for the museum, portraits for the gallery, and documents for publication in the *Wisconsin Historical Collections*. In the course of a few weeks the little library case was too small. By the close of the year the secretary was enabled to report to the Society the acquisition of a thousand volumes and a thousand pamphlets and documents — certainly a remarkable showing as compared with the fifty books which had been the product of the five years preceding his active administration. For want of library space the greater part of the acquisitions were stored in Draper's residence until, in August, 1855, a small room in the corner of the basement of the local Baptist church<sup>2</sup> was secured for the Society's use.

On the first of January, 1856, Daniel Steele Durrie, a bookseller formerly in business at Albany, N. Y., was chosen librarian, and held this position for over thirty-six years, until his death, August thirty-first, 1892.<sup>3</sup> He was succeeded by Isaac S. Bradley,<sup>4</sup> for seventeen years his chief assistant.

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Draper was elected to membership January 19, 1853, at the fourth annual meeting of the old organization. January 28, Judge Charles H. Larrabee, of Dodge county, who had been chiefly instrumental in inducing Draper to come to Wisconsin, introduced the draft of a charter for the Society, which was at once adopted by the latter and passed by the legislature, being approved by the governor on March 4. But owing to differences of opinion among the members, it was not until January 18, 1854, that the Society could be induced to adopt a new constitution under this charter, and put Draper to work.

<sup>2</sup> In 1900 this church, sold by the Baptists to the Wisconsin Telephone Co., was greatly changed in appearance, and converted into offices for that corporation.

<sup>3</sup> See *Wisconsin Historical Society Proceedings*, 1892, pp. 18, 19, 73-81, for biographical sketches of Mr. Durrie.

<sup>4</sup> Mr. Bradley was appointed assistant librarian April 9, 1875, and elected librarian September 6, 1892.



DANIEL STEELE DURRIE  
First librarian of the Society, 1856-1892.

WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY BUILDING

The Society soon securing legislative aid, the collections grew apace until nearly the entire basement of the church was occupied. This place was, however, dark, damp, and dingy, little suited to library purposes. In January, 1866, the institution — library, portrait gallery, and museum — was removed by authority of the legislature to quarters especially prepared for it in the then new south wing of the capitol. It was thought that there was now ample room for the accessions of at least a quarter of a century. But such was the rate of increase that in less than ten years' time these quarters were crowded. By 1881, cords of volumes, pamphlets, and reliques were piled in out-of-the-way corners and rooms throughout the capitol, there being no space to shelf or display them.

Secretary Draper, as the executive officer of the Society, now opened a vigorous campaign for a new building; he awakened interest in many of the leading men of the state, and gained the unanimous support of the newspaper editors. But there were certain complications which made it then impossible to carry a separate building scheme through the legislature. A compromise resulted in the Society being given the second, third, and fourth floors of the southernmost of two large transverse wings ordered by the legislature of 1882 to be attached to the capitol. In December, 1884, the transfer was made to the new and greatly enlarged quarters, the library occupying the second and third floors of the wing, and the museum and portrait gallery the fourth. Having seen the Society established in its new rooms, Secretary Draper resigned his position on the sixth of January, 1887, with a record of thirty-three years of arduous labor in behalf of the state. He was succeeded by Reuben G. Thwaites, who had been his assistant for two years.

It was Dr. Draper's wish to devote the remainder of his life to forwarding some private literary work; but he was prevented by ill-health from accomplishing his long-cherished plans in this direction, and died on the twenty-sixth of August, 1891. The Wisconsin historical library, which he practically founded, and so successfully managed and purveyed for through a third of a century, will remain an enduring monument to his tireless energy as a collector of Americana; while the first ten volumes of *Wisconsin Historical Collections* attest his quality as an editor of material for Western history.<sup>1</sup>

Although disappointed at the result of his campaign in 1881-82 for a new building, in the end it proved a fortunate outcome for the Society. The appropriation then sought was but \$50,000, from which only such a building could be constructed as soon would have been recognized as in every way inadequate to the fast-growing needs and purposes of the institution.<sup>2</sup>

The quarters in the new south wing, at first thought ample, were soon outgrown. The annual report of the executive committee of the Society, for 1887, first suggested the need "in the not far-distant future . . . of a separate building, so fashioned as artistically to admit of almost indefinite expansion; and constructed on the best obtainable plans, as to beauty, utility, and approximate indestructibility." The committee returned to the charge in 1888. In the legislature of 1889, State Senator Levi E. Pond introduced a bill appropriating \$300,000 (part of the war tax which was soon to be refunded to Wisconsin by the general government) for a Soldiers' Memorial Hall, to serve as a home for the Society, but "the entrance hall to be decorated with inscriptions in memory" of Wisconsin's veterans in the War of Secession. The senate passed the bill by a large majority, but it was defeated in the assembly. The executive committee, in its report for the year, does not, however, abandon the struggle: "Whether

<sup>1</sup> See *Wisconsin Historical Collections*, vol. xii, pp. 1-22, for a memoir of Dr. Draper.

<sup>2</sup> That was the sum mentioned in Dr. Draper's correspondence; but subsequently the defeated bill called for \$200,000, to be paid in two equal annual appropriations.

#### BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY

this new and separate building is to take the form of a memorial hall, or not, is of course for the legislature in its wisdom to decide. But for the building itself, there is a crying need." Still more vigorous are the committee's annual appeals in 1890, 1891, and 1892.

It was late in 1891 that President Thomas C. Chamberlin, of the State University, first suggested to the committee, of which he was a member, the desirability of asking the legislature for a building in the neighborhood of the campus, which should house the libraries both of the Society and the University; but at the time a majority of the committee did not deem such coöperation desirable for the Society, although it was demonstrated that 95 per cent of those who used the Society's library were members of the University. A year later, the proposition was discussed in greater detail, with the result that (January 10, 1893) the committee adopted the following resolution:

"Resolved, That the Society unite with the State University and the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters in asking the legislature at its coming session to erect a building upon or near the University grounds, for the proper accommodation of the libraries of the three institutions, as well as of the gallery and museum of the Society; provided that the title of the site shall rest in the name of the Society as the trustee of the state."

A bill carrying an appropriation of \$420,000 for this purpose was offered in the legislature of 1893; but after trembling in the balance for some weeks, it was allowed to give way to the University's other and perhaps more pressing needs. In 1895, a new measure was, with great effort, successfully carried through — by its provisions, the University deeding to the state eight lots of land as a site, and the building being ordered erected for the especial use of the Society as the trustee of the state, "and such other libraries and collections as may be placed in the custody of said historical society." This act carried a preliminary appropriation of \$180,000, to which sum the succeeding legislature (1897) added \$240,000, and that of 1899 a still further grant of \$200,000. This furnished a total of \$620,000, but all of this sum was not available for the purpose. The money being voted in the form of tax levies of \$100,000 per year,<sup>1</sup> the building commissioners were obliged to anticipate the income by loans from the state trust funds; thus, nearly \$40,000 will be paid back into the state treasury as interest, leaving only about \$580,000 for construction, equipment, architects' and inspectors' fees, and miscellaneous charges.

#### *The Society and the State.*

From the first, the Wisconsin legislature, with enlightened liberality, looked kindly on the State Historical Society, and made appropriations with which to purchase accessions, meet the greater part of the running expenses, and pay the necessary salaries of the working staff. The relationship of the Society to the state is not generally understood, even in Wisconsin. It is, however, easy of comprehension. By statute, the Society, which operates under the legislative charter granted in 1853, is the trustee of the state, and holds all of its property for the commonwealth. It can neither sell nor give away the property it thus holds in trust, nor permanently remove any of it from the State Historical Library Building without special consent of the legislature. As to stationery, printing, and postage, the Society is on pretty much the same footing as any of the state bureaus. The machinery of the Society serves to remove the management of this enterprise from partisan control; the members are men of prominence

<sup>1</sup>The acts of 1895 and 1897 provided for an annual tax levy of one-tenth of a mill for each dollar of the assessed valuation of the taxable property of the state; but in 1899 this was changed to specific annual appropriations of \$100,000 a year, closing with the year 1903.

WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY BUILDING

throughout the state, of all shades of political and religious opinion; and since its organization there has not been even a suspicion of "politics" in the conduct of its affairs. The Society is an institution which all good citizens unite in declaring should be free from such baneful influences. The work is thus left in the hands of those having a keen interest in it, and especially trained to its performance. As for the official interests of the commonwealth, they are looked after by the governor, secretary of state, and state treasurer, who are by law ex-officio members of the executive committee. The fact that these officers have the power to report upon the Society's operations, and the further fact that the legislature can at any time investigate its affairs, tend to make the management scrupulously careful.

The legislature has certainly been generous to the Society. With a few notable exceptions, and those in earlier years, the latter's relations with the governing body have been harmonious. The Society could not have been successfully maintained in this state without liberal official aid — far removed, as it is, from the intellectual and moneyed centres of the nation, and thereby laboring under peculiar difficulties.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>"The Society was originally a chartered institution; but in a new country, where so few had wealth to bestow on our literary institutions, it would have languished, and probably died for want of adequate support, had not the state stepped in, and given it an annual appropriation, published its volumes of *Collections* and *Catalogues*, and in other ways imparted to it life and prosperity: and in doing so, changed the character of its ownership, till now 'the Society,' in the language of the Revised Statutes, is but 'the trustee of the state.' The state then being the bona fide owner, should, it is generally conceded, properly provide for its accommodation." — Secretary Draper's letter to the Wisconsin Editorial Association, October 1, 1881.



A DOOR IN GENERAL READING ROOM

## THE WORK OF THE WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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BY REUBEN G. THWAITES,



THE State Historical Society of Wisconsin is engaged in several lines of work, which are defined in the following extract from the "Objects" section of its constitution: "Its object shall be the collection, preservation, exhibition and publication of materials for the study of history, especially the history of this state and of the Middle West; to this end exploring the archaeology of said region, acquiring documents and manuscripts, obtaining narratives and records of pioneers, conducting a library of historical reference, maintaining a gallery of historical portraiture and an ethnological and historical museum, publishing and otherwise diffusing information relative to the history of the region, and in general encouraging and developing within this state the study of history. It shall also perform such other and kindred duties as are now or may hereafter be imposed upon it by the laws of the state."

For the purposes of the present article, these activities may properly be grouped under the headings of Publications, Museum, and Library; but in addition to these much is constantly being done by the Society in practical research and in generally encouraging the interests of historical study in Wisconsin.

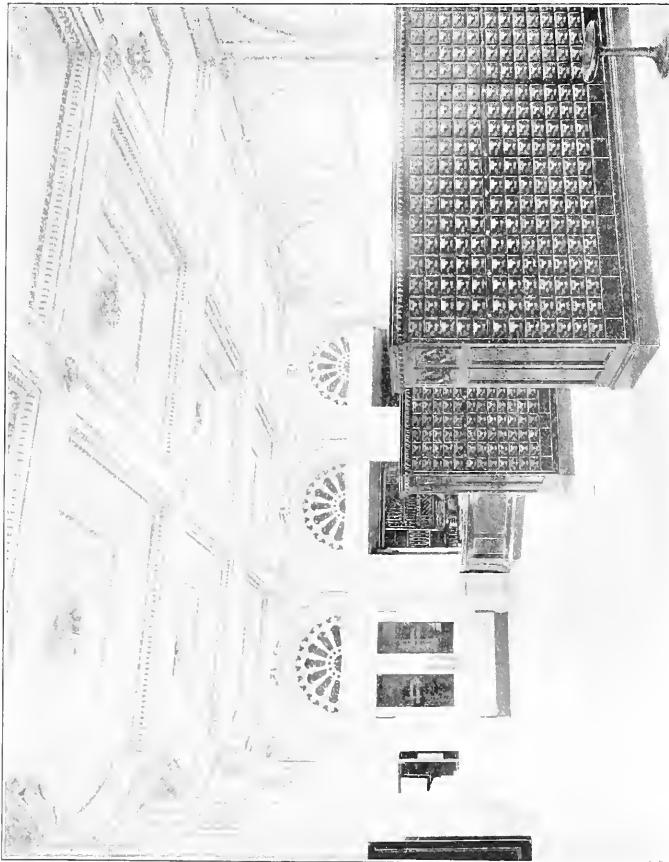
### *Publications.*

The Society has published fifteen volumes of *Wisconsin Historical Collections*, averaging five hundred pages each; the *Proceedings* of its annual meetings, with the historical addresses and papers presented thereto; the *Catalogue* of its library, in seven volumes, of seven to eight hundred pages each; three special class catalogues — *Books on the United States Civil War and Slavery*, *Bibliography of Wisconsin Authors*, and an annotated *Catalogue of Newspaper Files*; three editions of its *Portrait Gallery Catalogue*, and numerous monographs and *Bulletins of Information*.

### *The Museum.*

The Society is much in need of money for the purchase of accessions to its historical and ethnological museum. This department has, in the past, relied almost wholly upon the generosity of the people of the state, and will always depend in considerable measure upon this source; but it cannot do its best work as a factor in the education of the people until endowed with a purchasing fund. About fifty thousand persons visited the museum annually, while in the capitol, and doubtless this number will be much increased in its new quarters.

The ethnological department is fairly equipped, particularly as to Wisconsin stone and copper implements; there is also a good collection of mound pottery from Missouri and Arkansas. Of the numerous history relics, the most valuable is the famous silver osteoscurium



DELIVERY ROOM  
Looking north, towards Society's counter, public card catalogue to right. The General Reading Room lies to the left, beyond the columns.

#### THE WORK OF THE SOCIETY

(or *soleil*) presented by the French commandant, Nicolas Perrot, to the Jesuit mission at De Pere in 1686. Prominently exhibited, is what is probably the first printing press brought to Wisconsin (1833). There are numerous relics of the Western fur trade, French, English, and American—perhaps the most curious of these being a wooden anchor recovered from the bottom of Fox River, at Green Bay. The visual reminders of Wisconsin's war history, from 1812-15 to the Spanish-American imbroglio, occupy a large room, the chief object of interest being the stuffed remains of "Old Abe," the Wisconsin war eagle. Captured Confederate flags, and the memorial sword and silver punch-bowl presented by naval officers to Lieut.-Colonel Bailey, of "Red River dam" celebrity, are also of general interest. There is a room devoted to photographs and engravings, which includes groups of the several legislatures back to 1856; within cases, in this room, are also exhibits of rare books and manuscripts—the latter being frequently changed. One cabinet room is largely devoted to china, coins, and other interesting bric-a-brac, some of it of considerable historical and artistic importance. Another hall is devoted to miscellaneous curiosities.

Lining the walls throughout, is the Society's large collection of portraits, chiefly of Wisconsin worthies; there being about 200 oils and numerous busts in plaster, marble, and bronze.

#### *The Library.*

Because amassed under the administration of an historical society, many persons erroneously suppose that the library is devoted exclusively to history—a still smaller number take it for granted that the collection is wholly one of Wisconsin history. Viewing history simply as the record of whatever man has thought and wrought, the Society has accumulated a general reference library, in which the greatest stress has, however, been laid upon American and English history and geography, economics, and the political and social sciences.

On account of the proximity of the University of Wisconsin, about 95 per cent of its readers are instructors and students from that institution; in purveying for the library their wants are taken into consideration. University students doing original work of some importance are, under certain restrictions, allowed access to the book-stack, the same as other special investigators. Members of the University are, in fact, encouraged to use the library as freely as they do that of the University itself, which is now under the same roof, with reading and delivery rooms in common. Both are the property of and supported by the state, and are features of its educational system.

In 1875, the miscellaneous books of the State Library, in the capitol, were transferred, by order of the legislature,<sup>1</sup> to the Society's library, leaving the former purely a state law library, under the control of the justices of the supreme court; while the latter became, to all intents and purposes, the miscellaneous State Library in charge of the Historical Society, as the trustee of the state. The relations between the two libraries, both the property of the commonwealth, are most cordial, and they coöperate so far as possible.

The Society's library now numbers about 230,000 titles. The average annual increase is 3,500 volumes and 3,000 pamphlets; nearly two-thirds of the former are purchased, but not over ten per cent of the latter. In the West, large private libraries are not so numerous as in the East, and these are generally in the possession of young or middle-aged men. Thus our library has not that fertile source of supply enjoyed by the older libraries of the Atlantic slope, in the receipt of books by bequest. Only once has it had a large gift of this character.

<sup>1</sup>Chapter 251, Laws of 1875.

WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY BUILDING

In 1866, Mrs. Otto Tank, of Fort Howard, gave to the Society the library of her father, a scholarly Amsterdam clergyman, named Van der Meulen. Coming to her by will, and having no place to store the books, she presented them to the Society on condition that it pay the freight charges from Holland, which it was glad enough to do. The Tank library consists of somewhat over 5,000 old and rare volumes, mostly in the Dutch language; it is probably the largest collection of Dutch books in the United States. Nearly half of them are richly bound in vellum, and many are profusely illustrated with seventeenth-century copper-plate engravings. In the collection are numerous Bibles, atlases, and charts, old editions of the classics, early lexicons, and historical works. These old Dutch books are among the most interesting of the Society's possessions.

The principal daily and weekly newspapers of the state are sent gratis to the library, for binding and permanent preservation. Some two hundred volumes are annually made up in this manner, three years of the smaller weeklies being bound in a volume. These files generally reach back to the first issues of the journals represented. It is found that the state papers are frequently referred to by judges, lawyers, members of the legislature, local historians, and special investigators of every sort; while, as the Society's files are in many cases the only full ones in existence, editors themselves sometimes have occasion to examine them in the library, or to write for data contained in early issues.

The Society's collection of bound newspaper files outside of the State amounts to about 9,000 volumes, being probably the largest in the United States, save that of the Library of Congress. The earliest English file is that of the *Mercurius Julicus* of Oxford, bearing date 1643-45. From that time forward, there are few years not represented by the file of some prominent English or American journal. From 1730 on, the collection is unusually strong, especially in the American department.

The department of maps and manuscripts possesses many riches. The collection of American historical maps is notable. That of manuscripts is unexampled in the field of the Middle West and the South, from about 1735 to the close of the War of 1812-15—the famous Draper Collection; the history of Wisconsin and of the Indians, the fur trade, and the political and economic beginnings of the Old Northwest may here be studied in abundant detail, both in maps and in manuscripts. The Wisconsin material is of course particularly plentiful.

The Society's collection of public documents—national, state, and municipal reports, both domestic and foreign—widely attracts students of social and political science. It is strongest in the regions of the Old Northwest, and the commonwealths west of the Mississippi River.

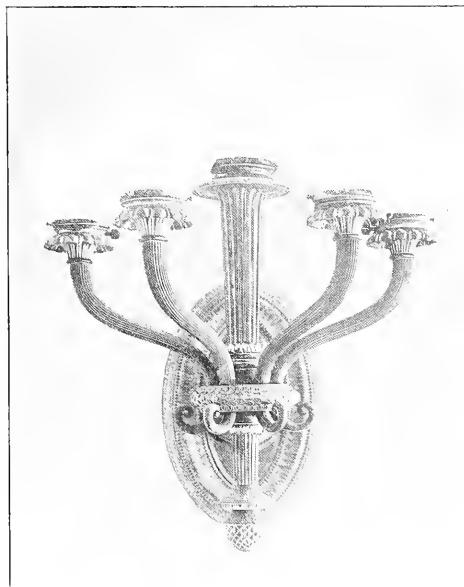
The genealogical collection is one of the three or four largest in the United States. It is strong in the histories of families, and in the materials for genealogical research, such as local histories—both American and English—and the publications of the principal English and American record-publishing societies. In the manuscript department there are, especially in the famous Draper Collection, abundant original records, valuable in tracing ancestries from the principal Western borderers.

The Society's collection of Shakespeareana numbers about a thousand volumes, among them some of the most celebrated of modern editions, such as the Boydell folio (1802), Johnson & Steevens (1813), Halliwell-Phillips folio (1853-65), facsimile of the first folio edition (London, 1866), and Ashbee & Halliwell's lithographic facsimile reprints of early quarto editions of the separate plays (London, 1866-71, 48 vols.). It also contains the publications both of the Shakespeare Society (1848-53) and the New Shakespeare Society (1874-81); and possesses unusually full data for a study of the Shakespeare-Bacon controversy.

*THE WORK OF THE SOCIETY*

In local American history, the library is particularly rich. Most of the town, county, and state histories in the United States and Canada may here be found, and additions are constantly being made, as opportunity occurs. The local history of several of the states of the Union may be, we are frequently told by those best informed therein, studied in the Wisconsin library to better advantage than in the states themselves.

Scholars from all parts of the West, and frequently from the Atlantic slope, may, especially in the summer months, often be met in the alcoves of the Society's library.



A STAIRWAY BRACKET

All electric fixtures are of the best bronze, and designed especially for this building.



ETHNOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE MUSEUM

THE LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

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BY WALTER MCMYNN SMITH, LIBRARIAN.

HE library of the University of Wisconsin can hardly be said to possess a history separate from that of the institution of which it is an integral part. When a college is founded, it must have a library, at least on paper, but in struggling times its growth is necessarily slow. Instructors a college must have, and buildings; so it is easier to make expenditures remain within the bounds of slender revenue by curtailing appropriations for books and apparatus, than in any other way. Hence the history of the University library, in its periods of growth and depression, simply repeats that of the University as a whole.

The first mention of the library in the publications of the University is found in the Third Annual Report of the Board of Regents, dated January, 1851. Here the existing condition and future growth of the University library are discussed, and in an appendix is printed a "Catalogue of Books in the Library of the University of Wisconsin, January 1st, 1850." This somewhat curious collection of books, numbering about 800 volumes, was made up largely of gifts; and one is more impressed with the spirit of generosity in the donors than by the value of the collection as the foundation of a working college library. Such was the hopeful beginning of the library. Its growth was, however, rather slow; and in successive reports of president and librarian attention is called to the lack of a suitable working library. In the ten years from 1850 to 1860, the total number of volumes increased from "nearly 800 volumes" to "over 3,000 volumes." Even slower was its growth during the next decade, as the best that could be said in the catalogue of 1870 was, "the University library comprises nearly 4,000 volumes." Then followed somewhat better times. In 1880, the library contained 9,000 volumes, and this number in 1890 had grown to 19,000. The last decade has been the period of relative prosperity, and the libraries of the University now contain 75,000 bound volumes and about 25,000 pamphlets. So much may show the growth of half a century. It will be noticed that over two-thirds of the volumes have come to the library during the past ten years.

In early days, the library was quartered in South Hall. A report of the librarian in January, 1853, made a plea for additional cases in the library room. In 1860, the library was moved to a room prepared for it in the newly completed University Hall. Here it remained until 1880, when it took possession of the library wing of the then new Library Hall. With a library of 9,000 volumes and barely 400 students in attendance, the University then thought that the new library building would be ample for the growth of at least half a century. Yet by 1890, the library had quite outgrown its quarters, and only by repeated increase of shelving

#### WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY BUILDING

in galleries and basement, and rearrangement of the reading room, was it possible for several years to accommodate either readers or books. Hence the completion of the new Library Building and the removal of the University library to ample quarters therein, specially designed for the purpose, is more than welcome to all connected with the University. With abundance of room for readers and books, it is hoped that the near future may witness a large growth of the library in all directions, a growth commensurate with the spaciousness and convenience of the new home.

The growth of the library in the past has been chiefly through purchases. While many volumes have been constantly presented by individuals, societies, etc., there have been, until

the last two years, few large gifts to the library. As a bequest from O. M. Conover, professor of ancient languages from 1852 to 1858, the library received in 1885 his private classical library, numbering upwards of five hundred volumes.

In the same year, the German section of the library was augmented by several hundred volumes purchased with funds presented by liberal German-Americans of the state. The Scandinavian section of the library numbers nearly a thousand volumes. The basis of this collection is the private library of the late Ole Bull, presented by him to the University. In 1893, Edward T. Owen, professor of French in the University, placed on deposit his fine private library of French language and literature, numbering over nine hundred volumes. This useful collection has now been placed in the French seminary room in the new building, room 322.

In 1897, Howard Greene of Milwaukee, a graduate of the University with the class of 1886, purchased the private library of a deceased friend, Dr. Frank E. Zinkeisen, and presented it to the University. This collection numbered considerably over a hundred volumes, and contained many valuable works in European and church history. In January,

1899, the sum of \$3,150 was presented by German-Americans of Milwaukee, to secure for the University a Germanic seminary library. This liberal gift has been carefully expended to develop and supplement the German section of the library, the number of additions from this source being 1,700 volumes. The well-known publishing and bookselling house of F. A. Brockhaus of Leipzig, from whom these books were purchased, increased this collection by the free gift of 350 volumes of their own publications. This new German library has found a home in the Germanic seminary room on the third floor of the new building.

The college year of 1900-01 witnessed four noteworthy gifts to the University library. A very valuable collection of rare books, relating to the history of social movements in England and the United States, has been presented by eleven Wisconsin gentlemen. This collection

*THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY*

consists of books and periodicals which grew up out of the work of Robert Owen and his followers. The private classical library of the late Prof. H. A. Sober, numbering about two hundred volumes, has been purchased by friends of Mr. Sober, and presented to the University library. The sum of \$2,000 has recently been given to the University by Charles F. Pfister and Mr. and Mrs. Fred. Vogel of Milwaukee, for the purchase of books and periodicals for the new School of Commerce. It is expected that this generous gift, now being expended, will be supplemented by further gifts for the same purpose from other Milwaukee citizens.

In the summer of 1900, William E. Dodge of New York City generously offered to contribute \$500 for the purchase of books for the School of Economics and Political Science, on condition that an additional sum of \$2,000 for the same purpose should be raised in Wisconsin. This condition has at length been met through liberal contributions from citizens of Milwaukee and Madison, and the sum of \$2,500 is now available for the purchase of books in the fields of economics and political science. This fund, as well as the Germanic seminary library fund of two years ago, was brought together largely through the exertions of a loyal alumnus of the University, Dr. Arthur J. Puls of Milwaukee.

The munificent gifts of the past few years lead to the hope that the future may see a continuance of such gifts in increased number. In no other way can alumni and other friends of the University so well show their loyalty and interest as by gifts, small as well as large, to the library of the University. The art departments of both the Historical Society and the University libraries are lamentably small, and money cannot be spared from ordinary book funds for needed growth. So it is to be hoped that this section of the library may soon find its benefactor. Equally desirable is a working collection of the best photographic reproductions of works of art, for the constant exhibition of which room can be spared in the new building. No equal expenditure of money could bring better returns to Wisconsin in an educative and cultural way.

In the future, the Historical Society library, the Wisconsin Academy library, and the University library, all located in the new State Historical Library Building, will divide the field much more systematically than has been possible in the past. Up to this time, the University library has aimed to be uniformly developed in nearly all fields; however, special appropriations in recent years have rendered it especially strong in the lines of economic and political science, in European history, and in classical philology. Most of the important periodicals and society publications in these fields are represented by complete sets. The library also possesses an excellent collection of engineering periodicals and society publications. About 125 such publications are currently received and placed on file in the engineering reading room in the new Engineering Building. The bound sets of these publications are kept in the stack in the periodical room in the State Historical Library Building, where all have direct, free access.

More than 600 periodicals are received at the University library. The catalogue is the usual dictionary card catalogue of authors, titles, and subjects in one alphabetic arrangement. The Cutter expansive system is used as a basis for shelf classification, but it is changed in many ways to suit special needs. Subject to certain restrictions, books may be drawn from the library by all members of the University; to all others, it is free for reference. It is open thirteen and a half hours daily during the academic year, except on Sundays, legal holidays, and Saturdays (when the building is closed at 4 p. m. for cleaning).

In addition to the general library, the University possesses three special branch libraries. The Woodman astronomical library, located in the Washburn Astronomical Observatory, is a

*WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY BUILDING*

valuable working collection of books, periodicals, and reports in the fields of mathematics, physics, and astronomy, now numbering about 2,500 bound volumes and as many more pamphlets. The library in the Law Building, of 4,000 volumes, is a working collection of text-books and reports; students also make large use of the State Law Library in the capitol, now numbering about 35,000 volumes. The library in Agricultural Hall contains over 5,000 volumes in the fields of agriculture and related subjects. This is supplemented by a reading room in which 125 of the leading agricultural papers of the world are currently received and placed on file.

In connection with several of the scientific departments, are kept working collections of reference books. Among the larger collections of this character, are those of the School of Pharmacy, and the departments of botany, chemistry, and zoology. The pharmacy library is especially rich in bound files of periodicals; the greater part of these are the property of Dr. Edward Kremers, the director of the school, and are placed on deposit by him for the benefit of the University.



A BULLETIN BOARD  
upon first floor corridor.

## THE LIBRARY OF THE WISCONSIN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, ARTS, AND LETTERS

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BY WILLIAM HERBERT HOBBS, PH.D.



THE Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters is an association of scientific workers organized under state laws, with liberal state encouragement. Its members are largely drawn from the faculties of the University of Wisconsin, of Beloit and Ripon Colleges, and Lawrence University, Appleton; with principals and teachers and other literary, scientific, and professional men. Investigations of a scientific character undertaken by members of the Academy may be published by the state in the form of *Transactions* of the Academy, which now comprise thirteen volumes aggregating over 5,500 pages. These *Transactions* are sent to scientific and technical societies throughout the world, and over five hundred of these bodies now send their publications to the Academy in exchange. In this manner a most valuable library of about 5,000 volumes has been brought together.

This collection of scientific works supplements in a noteworthy manner the libraries of the State Historical Society and the State University, for the reason that the publications of many of the so-called "learned societies" are not received at either of the larger institutions.

The real use of the books in the library of the Wisconsin Academy has heretofore been very limited, because no suitable place has been provided at which they could be made accessible to readers. They are now, however, assigned to a special part of the great book-stack in the new State Historical Library Building, and are soon to be provided with a card catalogue and thus made available to those who apply at either of the two delivery desks in the great reading room.

It is not, however, so much the present value of the library, as its future possibilities, which lays claim upon our attention. Of the 509 exchanges of the Academy which are now regularly received, 170 were secured through applications by the librarian in the years 1890-93, and another 92 exchanges through the similar efforts of the librarian who served from 1896-99. These are mentioned as indications that there are other societies who would be glad to make exchange of their publications with those of the Academy, if the matter were properly brought to their attention. The opportunities for enlarging the list of exchanges is in fact now better than ever before, inasmuch as arrangements are being perfected by which other Wisconsin state institutions will coöperate with the Academy, so as to secure exchanges with many of the larger scientific bodies whose publications are much more voluminous and more expensive than those of the Academy alone. The several series of *Bulletins* of the University, the *Bulletins* of the Geological and Natural History Survey of Wisconsin, and the *Publications* of the Washburn Observatory, may, under such an arrangement, be sent to a single society in

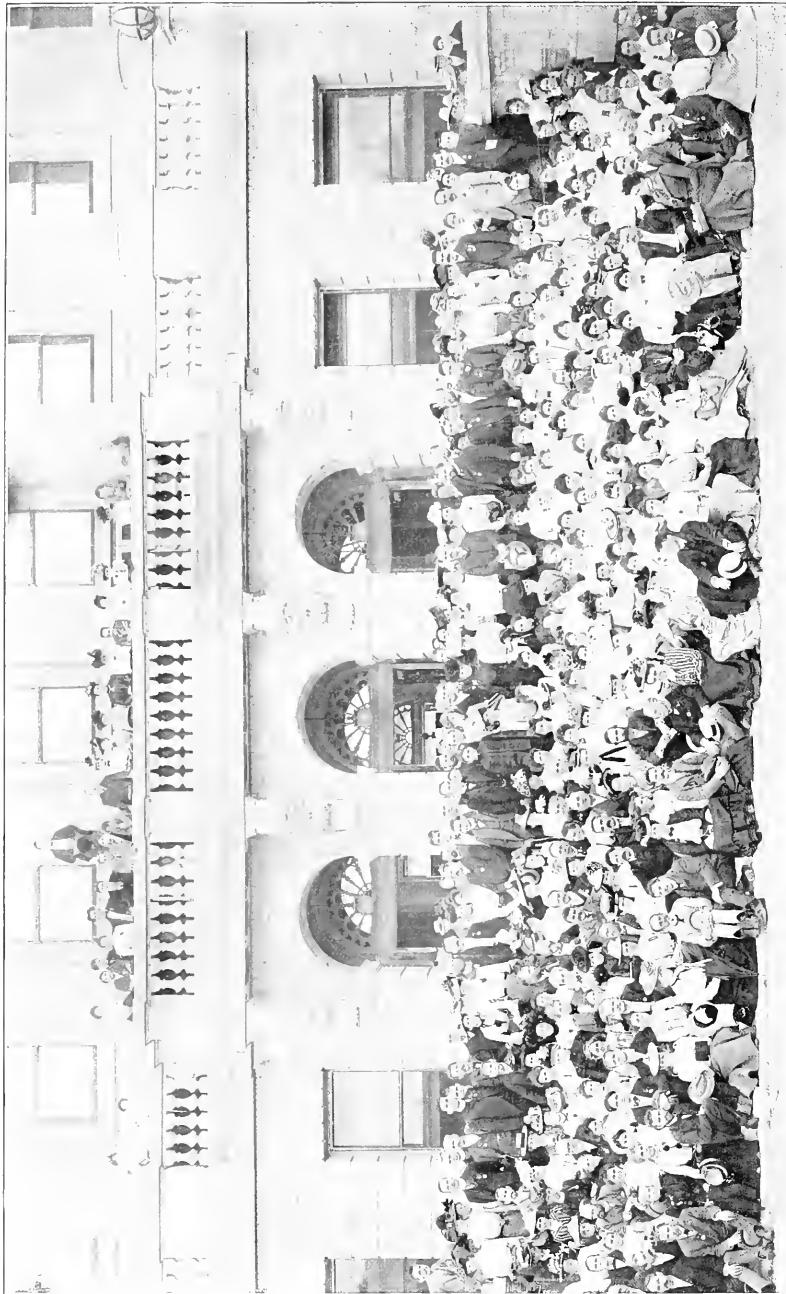
WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY BUILDING

return for its publications, provided that they are regarded as of sufficient value to constitute an equivalent. Publications secured in this way will be apportioned to the several libraries according to the field which they aim to cover. The State Historical Society, which issues *Collections*, *Proceedings*, *Bulletins*, etc., conducts, on its own account, a widely-spread exchange of publications with libraries and historical and antiquarian societies and museums throughout this country and Europe. Dwelling under a common roof, these several libraries will hereafter be spared the necessity of duplication of volumes; the work of acknowledgment, cataloguing, and care may be reduced to a minimum; and the reader will be benefited by having all the available books in the vicinity accessible by application at the delivery counters. The aim of the Wisconsin Academy will be to build up as complete a collection as possible of the publications of the scientific and technical societies throughout the civilized world.



A WINDOW  
Showing stone carving.





THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

On east steps of Wisconsin State Historical Library Building: taken on the afternoon of Monday, July 8, 1901.

## WHAT DISTINGUISHED LIBRARIANS THINK OF THE BUILDING

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THE twenty-third general conference of the American Library Association was held at Waukesha, July 3-10, 1901. One of the features of the conference was a visit to Madison upon Monday, July 8th, for the purpose of inspecting the new Wisconsin State Historical Library Building. After the close of the conference, when the visiting librarians had returned to their homes, and had had time in which to reflect upon their impressions, the Editor requested a few of the most distinguished and representative members of the profession, who had themselves given much study to library architecture, to send to him, in brief phrase, their candid opinions of the building, regarded wholly from the practical librarian's point of view. The following responses were received; they are the more remarkable in that several of the writers themselves administer beautiful and worthy structures, and all are accustomed to taking a judicial attitude relative to professional matters, uninfluenced by a mere desire to please.

From Mr. Henry J. Carr, librarian of Scranton (Pa.) Public Library, and President of the American Library Association — "A recent inspection of the new building of the Wisconsin State Historical Society adds to and confirms the satisfactory impressions derived from a prior visit made before the structure was entirely ready for use. I have been also quite conversant with the outline plans and requirements of its construction, whose carrying out has led to such effective results. Its beauty, its rich simplicity in the details of ornamentation, and more than all its eminent suitability to the joint occupancy for which it was planned and now affords such happy convenience, all deserve the highest words of praise and commendation."

From Dr. Herbert Putnam, Librarian of Congress, and ex-President of the Association — "The resolutions passed by the Association at the conclusion of the Waukesha conference, referred to your new building as a 'notable' recent achievement in library architecture. The Association, as you are aware, has to avoid terms which may involve a critical estimate and eulogium of either architecture or administration, in library matters, except, of course, it be some matter solemnly adjudicated by the council. The word 'notable' must, however, have been felt by all of us to be unduly temperate. Your building seemed to us beautiful in its proportions and in its simplicity of detail; dignified; and efficient to its purposes to a degree rarely exhibited in any building for library uses. Without invidiousness we cannot compare. But the general feeling was, I am sure, very heartily that the state of Wisconsin has not merely benefited itself, but has done a general public service in accomplishing this edifice. Our hope and cordial expectation is, that the state will enable the institutions which are to inhabit it to pursue liberally the objects of which it is a suggestion and promise."



ETHNOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE MUSEUM

OPINIONS OF DISTINGUISHED LIBRARIANS

From Hon. Melvil Dewey, Director of New York State Library, and ex-President of the Association—"It was common comment that the American Library Association in its meetings and post conference excursions, which in the past twenty-five years have extended from Quebec to New Orleans and from Halifax to San Francisco, had never visited a library building on which there was so little criticism compared with the generous commendation given to the new library of the State Historical Society. Dignity, beauty, and practical convenience are combined in a rare degree in the great building of which Wisconsin is justly proud."

From Mr. R. R. Bowker, Editor of *The Library Journal*, New York City—"In sending personal thanks, through you, to all our Wisconsin hosts who made the visit of the American Library Association at once so delightful and so instructive, let me congratulate you especially on the provision which Wisconsin has made, so fittingly and so admirably, for the libraries of the State Historical Society and the University of Wisconsin. The Badger state seems to be making itself the banner state in the service of the people in at least two directions: the dairy and agricultural development, for which the University of Wisconsin is doing so much, and the furnishing of food for the mind as well as for the body, in the traveling libraries and other library facilities, through the Wisconsin Free Library Commission and the general library system of which your new building and the library at Milwaukee are visible monuments. It is almost impossible to estimate the contribution to the wealth of the state, and indeed of the whole West and the country at large, which comes from finding a kind of barley which in your soils will develop fifty per cent more product with the same cultivation, or in freeing the dairy interests from the dread of tuberculosis and enabling the farmers to produce a milk, butter, and cheese crop of better quality and higher price, as Professors Henry, Babcock, and their associates are doing; and in the morning which I, with others of your visitors, spent in going over their work, it impressed me that they were accomplishing indirectly a still greater result in turning back the human current from the overcrowded cities again upon the farms, by making farming a calling in which brains and 'book-knowledge' can be utilized quite as effectively as in the occupations of the city. It is peculiarly fitting that the additional wealth which the brains of such men are developing for the state should be returned in kind by the liberal support of libraries, both in the great collections of which your own is so noble an example, and in the traveling libraries, which are reaching out into all the farming hamlets with their quickening influence. To my mind, your new library building is notable as the physical evidence of this broad and liberal spirit on the part of the people of Wisconsin; and what especially struck me, as one somewhat experienced in building, is that you should have obtained such value, dollar for dollar, as you have in a building of such magnificence and beauty, at a cost, approximately, of \$600,000. I think we all agreed that the library building is one of the most beautiful and fitting in the country, and it will certainly be a monument for many generations of the wisdom and foresight of the people of Wisconsin in recognizing that brains, in their development through books and university training, are one of the largest sources of enlightened and beneficent wealth."

From Prof. W. I. Fletcher, Librarian of Amherst College, Editor of *Poole's Index to Periodical Literature*, and ex-President of the Association—"I wish to express to you my high appreciation of your new library building. I have not seen another which combines rare beauty of design and finish with more features of practical excellence and usefulness. The main reading room is equal to any similar room that I have seen, and every part of the building is admirably adapted to its uses. Your state is certainly to be congratulated on having, in this case, got its 'money's worth.'"

*WISCONSIN STATE HISTORICAL LIBRARY BUILDING*

From Mr. John Cotton Dana, Librarian of the Springfield (Mass.) City Library, and ex-President of the Association—"In the present transition period of library management, it is most difficult for one to dogmatize over either the general principles or the details of library construction. Still more difficult is it to criticize or to appreciate a building designed to meet the peculiar needs of two great institutions like your Historical Society and State University. But there are some things which must at once impress any student of library construction who may look over even hastily your beautiful building. Without, it has the dignity and simplicity its purpose and its setting demand. Within, it is impressive, and yet is rather cheering than overpowering in its general aspect. As to its utility, the easy circuit from the reference room through the stack and administration rooms to the reference hall again, quickly made, with easy access up and down and to the right and left to the things and places wanted—this appeals to the practical librarian's heart, and is typical of the manner in which the whole building is, in a higher degree I believe than any library I have ever seen, adapted to the daily needs of those who use it."

From Mr. Henry M. Utley, Librarian of Detroit Public Library, and ex-President of the Association—"Your Madison building has certainly a very pleasing exterior. There is a dignity and grace in its outline and general effect, quite in keeping with the purpose of the building. The general reading room is the most attractive room of the kind I have ever seen. I do not believe it has its equal. So far as I am able to judge from the brief examination given, the arrangement of the several departments of the library appears to me to be very convenient and admirable. You and your associates are to be congratulated upon the possession of such a fine workshop."

From Prof. Frederick M. Crunden, Librarian of St. Louis Public Library, and ex-President of the Association—"I derived great pleasure and profit from the two or three hours spent in your new library. It is certainly one of the finest library buildings in the country. I do not see how any change could enhance the pleasing effect produced by the simple dignity of its facade, while the interior arrangement is admirably adapted to the purposes for which the building is designed. The ingenuity of the plan is made more noteworthy by the complexity of the problem presented, in providing for two distinct institutions. Having heard beforehand the cost of the building, I was not prepared for so imposing a structure. I congratulate you on the good arrangement which, combined with your good luck in building at the most favorable time, has secured for you a building worth hundreds of thousands more than it cost."

From Dr. Clement W. Andrews, Librarian of John Crerar Library, Chicago—"You ask me for an expression of my opinion in regard to the new building of the State Historical Society. Naturally the first and most striking impression was made by the beauty and dignity of the building and of its position; and these are well matched by the elegance and convenience of its appointments. It was to me more interesting, however, to find that this beauty of form had not been secured at any sacrifice of usefulness, and that the building seemed remarkably well planned for its intended use. The problem of combining the maximum efficiency of a library, open to the public generally, the maximum service to the classes of an educational institution, and the best accommodation of individual scholars, is not a simple one. The solutions have been varied, but of them all I know of none which promises better results for expenditure than that employed in your building. I regard my visit to the library as one of the chief pleasures of a very pleasant day, and I consider it a privilege to be allowed to congratulate the people of Wisconsin on the possession of a monument worthy of the state; and the State Historical

*OPINIONS OF DISTINGUISHED LIBRARIANS*

Society and the State University on the prospects of the increased usefulness which the building offers."

From Mr. Edwin H. Anderson, Librarian of Carnegie Library, Pittsburg—"I congratulate you on your new library building. The arrangements, the furniture, and general equipment struck me most favorably. I was astonished to learn that the cost of the whole was only \$600,000. Wisconsin should be proud of this noble structure, so intelligently planned, and erected at such moderate cost."



CARVED-STONE OVAL  
East loggia.



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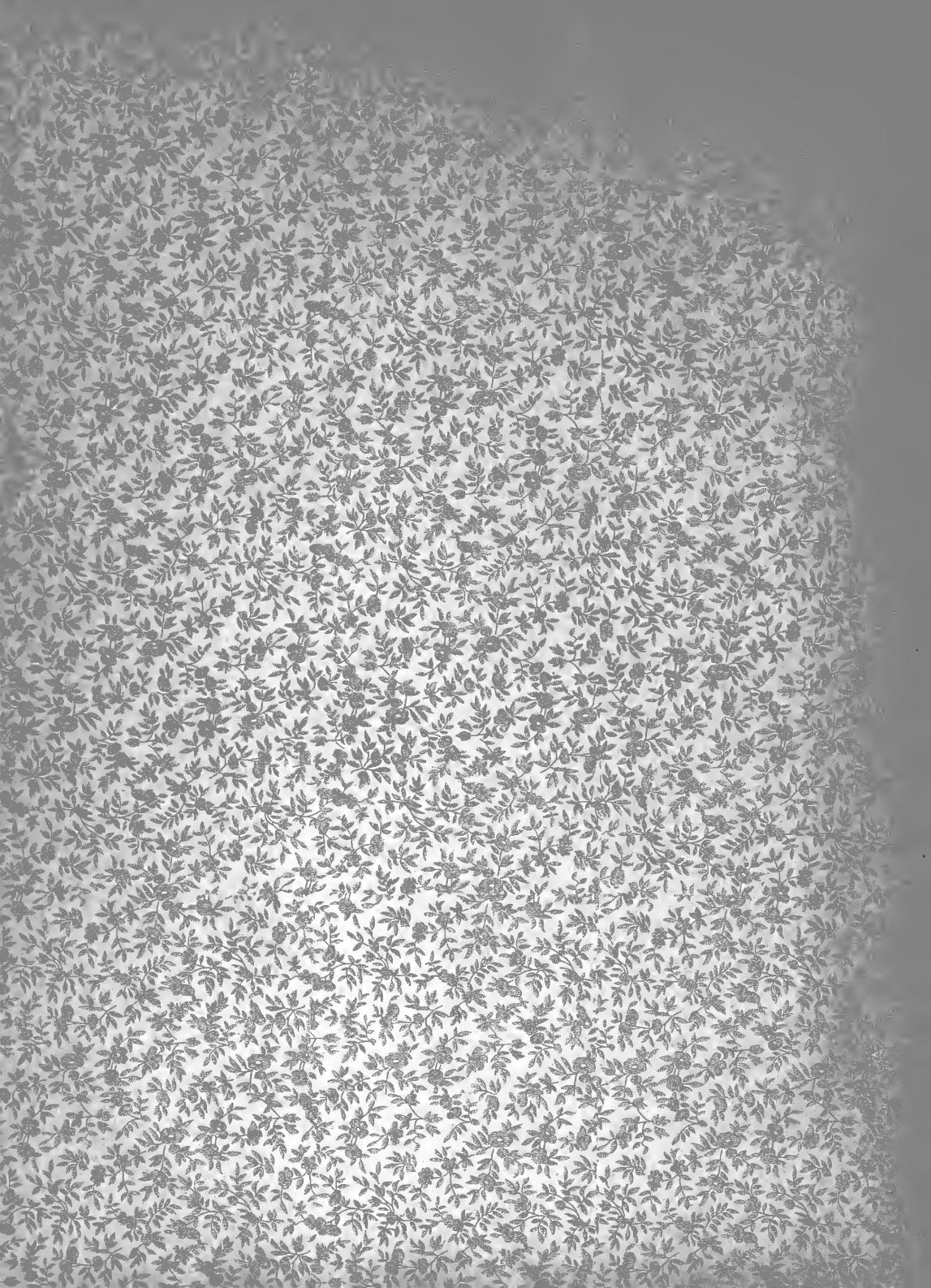
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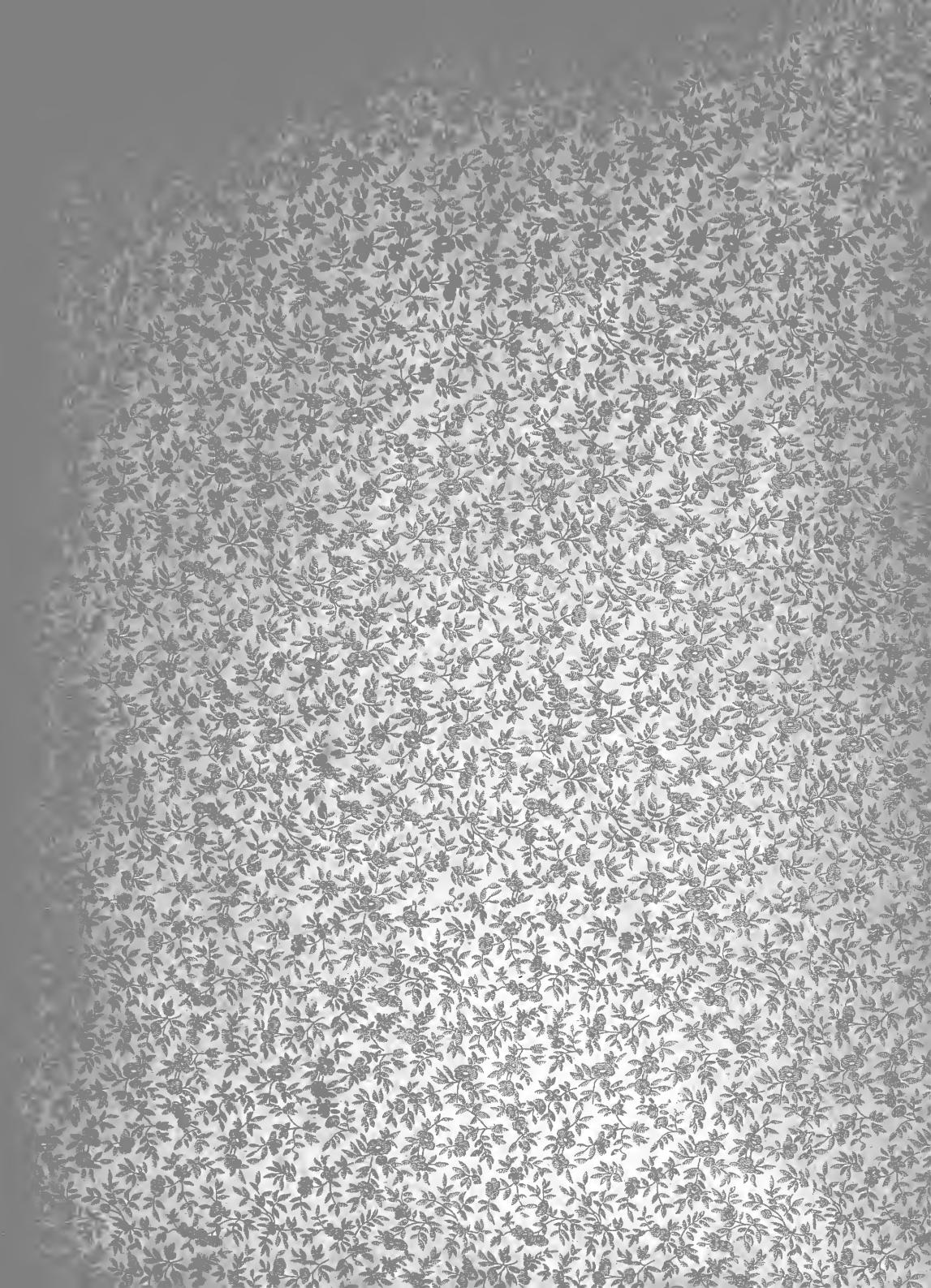




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